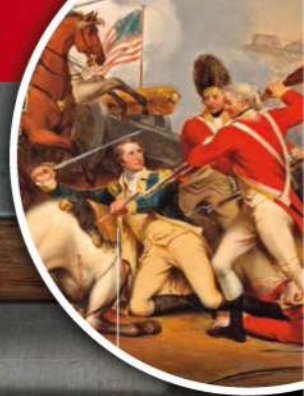


FRENCH REVOLUTION ROYAL HEADS ROLL IN UPRISING • WAR OF INDEPENDENCE USA EXPELS BRITISH TO GAIN FREEDOM

Bringing **History** to Life

BLOODY REVOLUTIONS



French taste kingly blood

The guillotine
could take 60
heads every day.



USA fights for freedom

The idea people
are born free
stokes revolution.



Russians topple Tsar

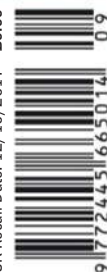
Bolsheviks seize
power and kill the
Royal Family.



Che fights for the poor

Revolts break out
in Cuba, Mexico
and Bolivia.

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POPULAR REVOLUTIONS END IN BLOODSHED AND GENOCIDE

In 1783, Britain finally signed a peace treaty that recognised the United States as an independent nation. 250,000 people died in the US's struggle for sovereignty and democracy. Six years later, the French people tried to follow the American example, but after the king's execution, the regime turned to terror and beheaded 40,000 of its opposition. But the bloodiest revolution of all was in Russia, where the civil war took a staggering 10 million lives.

Revolutions are epochal turning points in history where new regimes are born in bloody violence. In this issue of Bringing History to Life we focus on the main events and protagonists of these upheavals.

It's essential reading.



Linda Corfitt Jensen
Linda Corfitt Jensen
Editor

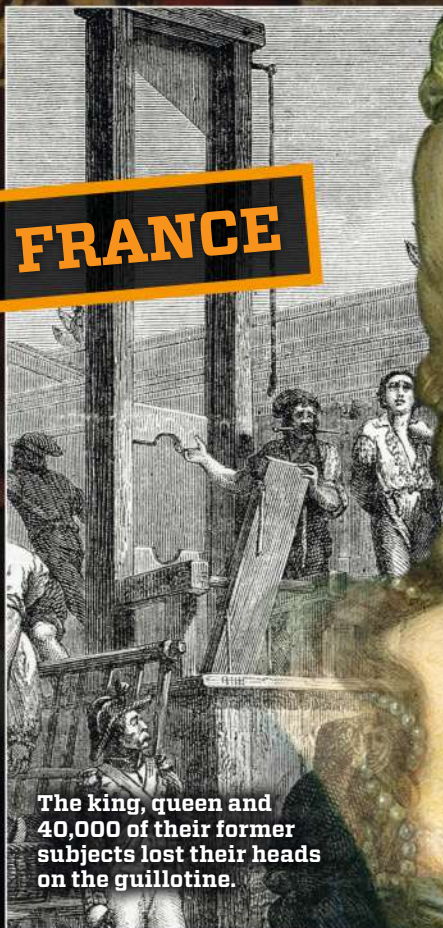
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FRANCE



The king, queen and 40,000 of their former subjects lost their heads on the guillotine.

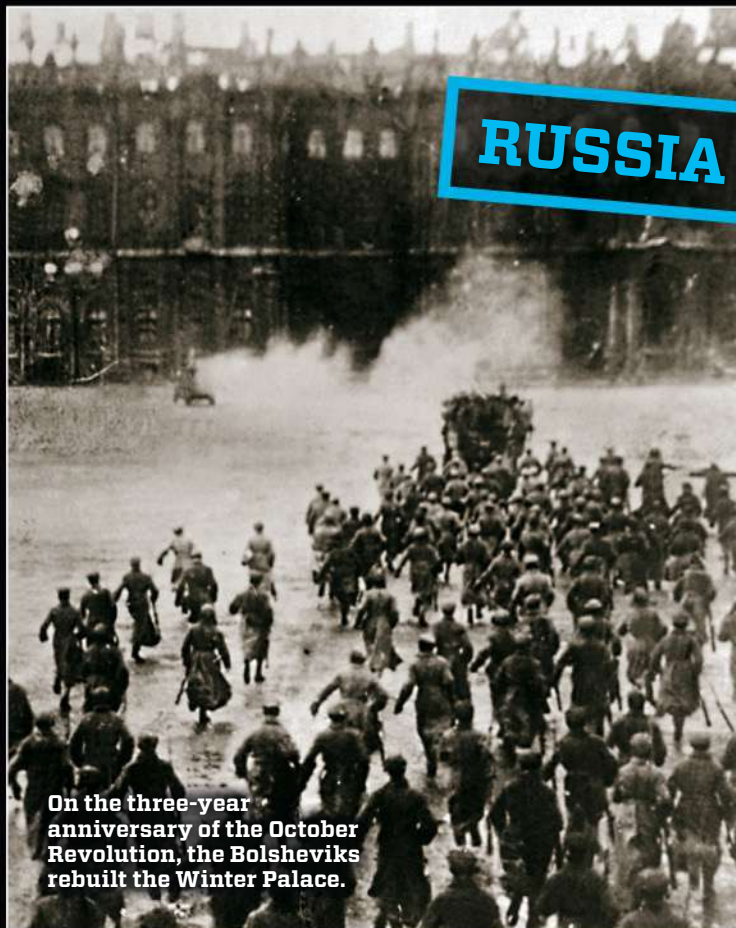


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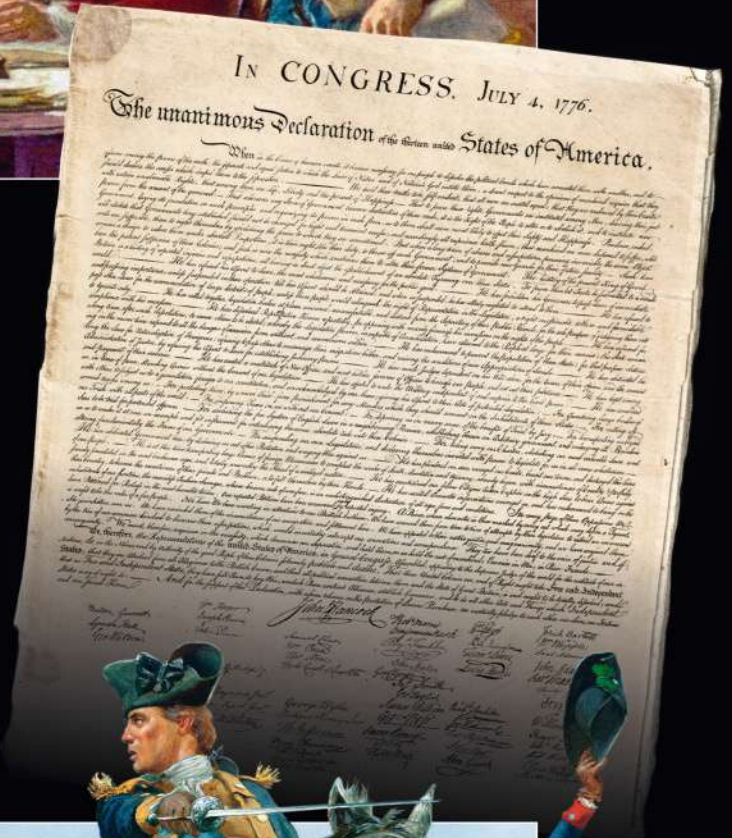
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USA

COLONISTS BEAT SUPERPOWER

The Declaration of Independence was based on a new idea, that all men are born equal. But to gain that independence, an army of ragged colonists would have to battle the British Empire's well-trained Red Coats. At their head stood George Washington. His only advantage? A stubborn willingness to never give up.



America's fight for freedom began here

The American colonists had had enough. A protest against unfair British taxes in Boston sparked a furious response as citizens descended on the harbour to take matters into their own hands.

BY PELLE STAMPE
The 5,000 Boston citizens who arrived at the Old South Meeting House Church on the morning of 16th December, 1773 were an agitated crowd. When they finally crammed into the city's largest building, Samuel Adams opened the meeting, lighting the fuse that would explode into the American Revolution, setting the colonists on the path to the Declaration of Independence in 1776

and eventual secession of 13 American colonies from British rule.

Relations between Britain and its subjects in the colonies had been deteriorating for decades, distilled into the colonists' "No Taxation without Representation" slogan. They objected to paying duties such as those on imported tea without representation in London's Parliament. After the Tea Act of May 1773, the British East India

Company had begun to ship directly to the colonies to undermine a thriving trade in smuggled duty-free tea.

Samuel Adams called his meeting as two East India Company ships arrived in port to join a third, which had been docked since late November. Several outraged voices spoke in favour of an armed attack against the East India Company's ships, warehouses and their employees. Adams and other

Boston's citizens went directly to the port from the Old South Meeting House. Disguised as Indians, they threw their colonial masters' tea into the harbour, sparking the conflict.



CORBIS

senior members of the Sons of Liberty – a group who wanted independence for the American colonies – advised the crowd to calm down. Instead, a second plan took shape.

That evening, 60 men dressed as Mohawk Indians snuck aboard the ships and threw the precious tea overboard into the harbour. The following day the colonists paid compensation for a destroyed padlock, but refused to reimburse the cost of the tea – around \$3 million in today's money. Conflict between Boston and Britain was now out in the open.

Five died in the Boston massacre

The Old South Meeting House was built in 1729 – today a Church sits at the corner of Milk and Washington Streets in downtown Boston. In addition to its religious function, the building was used for many of Boston's political and religious meetings.

Boston itself had been founded in 1630 by English Puritans, keen to set up a strict Protestant church out of the reach of both King and Pope – America gave them that option. Boston quickly grew into a thriving port and centre of trade – both its wealth and Puritan feelings of alienation increased their craving for independence.

By the 1760s, Boston was at the forefront of the colonies' fight for more rights. The British retaliated by posting troops in the city – in 1770 soldiers



The Church where the crucial meeting was held in 1773 was the city's tallest building.



Today, the Old South Meeting House is surrounded and dwarfed by skyscrapers.

opened fire on a demonstration killing five colonists, Adams dubbed the event "The Boston Massacre". The funeral of four of the victims took place in the Old South Meeting House, the largest public gathering in the American colonies' history.

The events of 16 December, 1773, later known as "The Boston Tea Party", saw colonists ready to take the next step to secure their rights: the march to independence had begun.

■ **Congregation members of the Old South Meeting House included the statesman, author and inventor Benjamin Franklin, as well as Phillis Wheatley. She became the first African-American woman to have a book published in 1773.**

■ **The Old South Meeting House was built when Boston had been around for 100 years. The city was founded in 1630 by Protestant Puritans who fled from religious persecution in England.**



Tourist attractions around Boston



1 **Freedom Trail:** this marked route leads visitors to all of Boston's attractions, spanning from the period the town was founded through to the years of rebellion.

2 **USS Constitution:** this 54-gun frigate launched in 1797. The vessel served in the War of 1812 between the United States and Britain's remaining North American colonies. She is the oldest commissioned naval vessel still afloat.

3 **Witch City:** the city of Salem was Massachusetts' first capital, but is best known for its witch-hunts, where 20 women and children were executed in 1692.

4 **Colonial life:** The 17th Century Village in Plymouth offers a complete reconstruction of an early colonist settlement.

Boston is the one of the oldest colonies established by the British on the US East Coast. It's about 300 kilometres north of New York.

USA rejects British rule with a declaration

241 years ago, the delegates of 13 North American colonies signed **The Declaration of Independence** to secede from British rule. It marked the birth of a new nation with a simple message: that everyone has a right to freedom.

BY BENJAMIN T. CHRISTENSEN
A yellowed sheet of paper at the National Archives in Washington is the United States' most important document: it's the written proof that the North American colonies voted to break away from British rule on 4th July, 1776, and represents the birth of American democracy.

13 North American colonies had been governed by Britain since 1607, when the first English emigrants founded the colony of Jamestown on North America's east coast, near present-day Washington. But after 169 years, the colonists now felt that British rule in North America should end.

The Declaration established that in the 13 colonies, all men are created equal and that everyone has the right to life, liberty and happiness. It went on to say that the British crown had harmed its citizens' natural rights, adding that the colonies were duty bound to declare themselves independent.

The document also contained numerous examples of King George III's "repeated injuries and usurpations" of American rights and liberties. The

document concluded with the statement that the 13 colonies now regarded themselves as independent under the collective name of The United States. Together they would defend themselves and their inhabitants' rights.

For the first time in recorded history, a colony's inhabitants had declared that they alone had the right to choose by whom and how they would be governed.

The King stokes the fires of rebellion

The root of the colonists' grievance lay with the Crown's insistence they pay taxes without gaining representation in Parliament. By the 1770s, the feeling of being treated like second-class citizens in their own country had worn thin.

The colonies initiated an uprising against the Crown in 1775 with the stated aim of obtaining the same rights as other British subjects, but rather than negotiate a settlement, George III chose to respond with military force, escalating the conflict into a full-scale war. His demands for a large military force to be sent to crush the rebellion was ratified by Parliament in January, 1776, uniting

the colonies behind a new aim: full autonomy from British rule.

The Declaration is signed

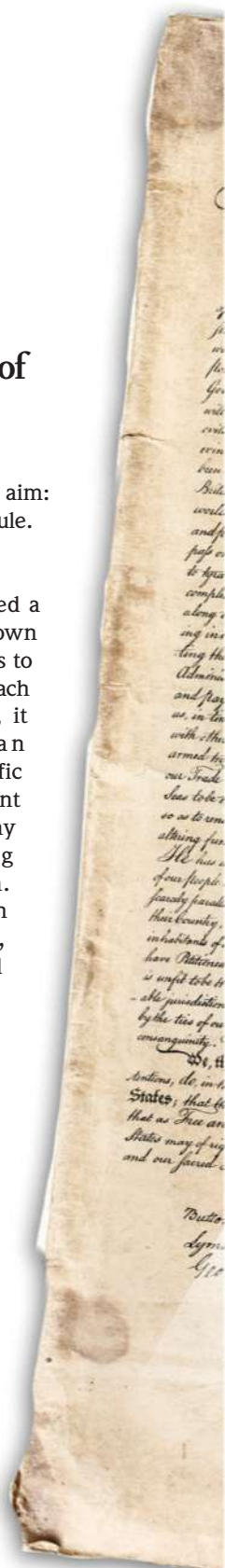
The 13 colonies had formed a convention of delegates known as the Continental Congress to provide a coordinated approach to the rebellion. In June, it appointed a five-man committee with the specific task of drafting a document outlining the reasons why America was claiming sovereignty from Britain. The first draft was written by lawyer Thomas Jefferson, and then reviewed and edited by other committee members, including Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

Congress voted to declare independence on 2nd July, and on 4th July it approved the final version of the formal Declaration of Independence. By 2nd August, all 56 delegates had officially signed the document, but 4th July is the date celebrated as Independence Day.

Today, the document is one of the most sought after in the world, so even early copies and transcripts from the 18th Century are worth a fortune among collectors. In June 1991, a first printing of the Declaration sold for \$2.4 million at auction.

One of three documents

Visitors to the National Archives in Washington can see the Declaration of Independence – displayed behind bulletproof glass and under constant guard. The document is joined by the American Constitution of 1787 and the first ten amendments to it in the form of the Bill of Rights from 1789. Together, the three documents form the bedrock of American democracy.



In 1775, the North American colonies swapped the British colonial flag for one that showed a stripe for each colony.

GETTY IMAGES & NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

Confusion over the date

The 4th July date marks the day Congress approved Jefferson's draft declaration. It wasn't until early August that it was officially signed by all 13 colonies.

A text in three parts

Jefferson's declaration was broken into three sections: the first described man's right to freedom, the second listed grievances against British rule while the third part contains the actual declaration of independence.

Puzzling images

In the lower left corner of the original document is a clear imprint of a hand. Experts have no idea where it came from, but it was probably made during the War of Independence when the document often travelled with delegates around the country.

A missing signature

Representatives of the 13 colonies signed the Declaration during the summer of 1776 – with one notable exception. Robert Livingston of New York refused to sign because he was convinced independence had come too early.

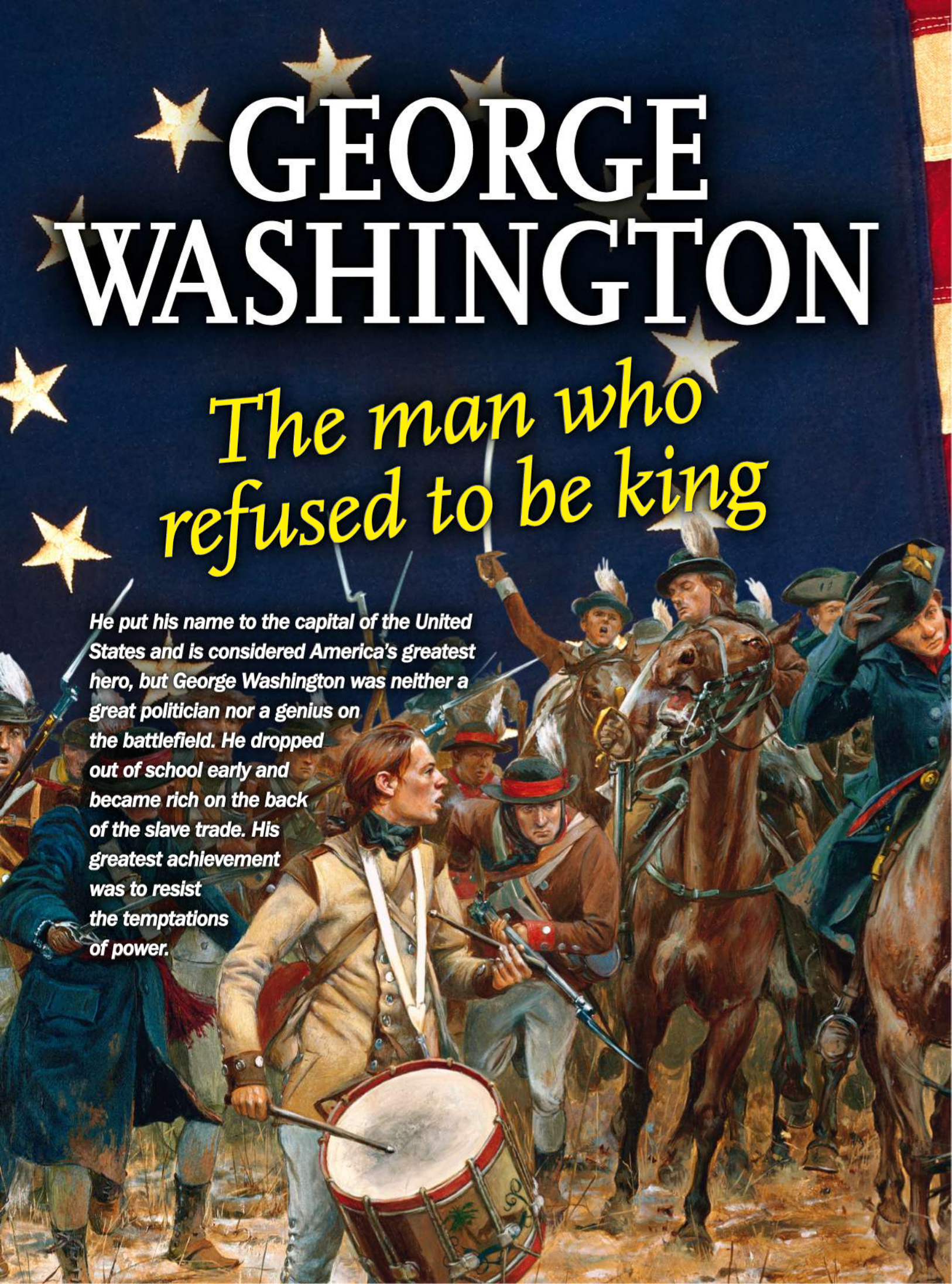
Thomas Jefferson

John Adams

Benjamin Franklin

Lawyer Thomas Jefferson had his draft declaration reviewed and edited by both friends and peers.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



★ GEORGE ★ WASHINGTON ★

*The man who
refused to be king*

He put his name to the capital of the United States and is considered America's greatest hero, but George Washington was neither a great politician nor a genius on the battlefield. He dropped out of school early and became rich on the back of the slave trade. His greatest achievement was to resist the temptations of power.



WASHINGTON

In battle, Washington always rode at the front of his army, but was never hurt.

BRIDGEMAN & SHUTTERSTOCK

USA/1775

Great Britain rules North America's eastern seaboard, divided into 13 separate colonies. But a fierce argument rages between the colonists and the British government over taxation and their lack of representation in London's Parliament.



Indian scouts lead the way without making a sound. Behind them follow a column of militia who constantly trip over tree roots as they follow a seemingly invisible forest path. This is George Washington's first army.

The year is 1754, Washington is only 22 years old, but he seems older thanks to his unwavering calm.

The troops trudging behind the young officer are raw recruits. These 40 colonists are understandably nervous as they find themselves in unfamiliar surroundings in Ohio's forests and have yet to experience battle.

Up ahead, 35 French Canadian soldiers are camped in a clearing. It's Washington's job to remove them – France has been making moves to expel British traders and colonists from the area to secure its own access to the interior of the American continent.

The Indians give a signal, and Washington and his men spread out in a line through the undergrowth.

"We were advanced pretty near to them ... when they discovered us", Washington writes in his diary later. "Whereupon I ordered my company to fire". Two volleys of musket shot ring out in quick succession from Washington's troops, and 10 French soldiers – including their commander – are killed. The rest quickly surrenders.

The skirmish triggers a shock wave across the rest of the world. The United Kingdom and France are soon engaged in war, with other European nations dragged into the conflict and battles fought as far away as India and the Caribbean. The war lasts seven years, and historians will later argue that the entire war was set in motion by a single

colonial officer. George Washington has entered the world stage.

Deaths in the family

Washington came from a family of plantation owners who had lived in Virginia since the 1690s. There was genteel blood running in his veins, but the Washingtons were of middling rank

Colonists felt compelled to revolt

They saw themselves as loyal British subjects, but Americans felt their rights were being subjugated by those in London.

1764 A tax on sugar is the first of many designed to finance the British military in North America. But the colonists refuse to pay without representation.

1770 British soldiers fire at a large crowd demonstrating in Boston. Five civilians are killed.

1773 The Boston Tea Party. A group of colonists storm British ships and throw their cargo of tea overboard into Boston Harbour in protest at the Tea Tax.

1774 The first Continental Congress meets – delegates from all 13 British colonies in America convene to agree on a common response against the United Kingdom.

1775 The Revolutionary War, begins when British soldiers attempt to disarm the local militia in Massachusetts, leading to an exchange of fire.

rather than one of the colony's leading planter families.

Washington was born in February, 1732, but was denied the academic education his elder brothers had enjoyed when his father died in 1743. His beloved elder half-brother Lawrence secured him a place as a cadet in the Royal Navy, but Washington's mother vetoed the idea, arguing that British officers viewed colonists as second-class citizens. Instead, Washington trained as a surveyor.

Lawrence contracted tuberculosis in 1751, and died a year later. These two tragic deaths had a decisive impact on Washington's life. First, he inherited Mount Vernon Plantation from his brother, making him an important landowner. He also became head of the Washington family, which allowed him to give up surveying and chase a more prosperous and honourable future.

The young Washington decided his career path would be in the Virginia militia. He had no military experience, but Lawrence had served as Adjutant General for the whole of Virginia, and after some lobbying Washington was appointed as one of four district adjutants, with the rank of major. He'd barely put on his first military uniform when French troops moved into the Ohio Valley.

Washington proves his mettle

The fight against the French in North America was pivotal in Washington's life and outlook. He met with the British army and felt slighted – simply because he was a colonist. He also learned how it was possible to defeat the British army.

In the summer of 1755, General Edward Braddock was appointed commander-in-chief of the British army in North America. He planned to capture several French forts in Ohio and led an expedition of 2,100 men into the wilderness. Before leaving, Braddock sought Washington's services as an aide.

Some persuasion was required: Washington had discovered that his militia rank – now Lieutenant Colonel – was considered lower than even the poorest Lieutenant in the British army. Braddock offered him the temporary rank of a British Army Captain, but it was not enough for the proud Washington. Eventually he accepted a role as personal advisor to the General, placing him outside of the military chain of command.

Braddock's expedition made slow progress and eventually he split his forces in two, advancing with 1,300 men. Meanwhile, at Fort Duquesne, the



Mount Vernon was George Washington's Plantation in Virginia. It was named after the British admiral Edward Vernon, under whom Washington's elder brother served.

PRESIDENT NO. 1

Unanimously elected

Washington is the only President to have been chosen unanimously by the electoral college. James Monroe came close to equalling this feat when he went for re-election in 1820 and no one stood against him. However, one elector defied him by voting for someone who hadn't stood as a candidate.

SHUTTERSTOCK

French were waiting. They were heavily outnumbered, so rather than fight in open country sent their 250 soldiers and 600 Native Americans in an ambush.

Unexpectedly, the two sides came upon each other in dense forest, at which point

the Native American war horns sounded. "The terrible sound will haunt me to the day I die", a survivor said afterwards. It was followed by an exchange of musket fire, but the British fell in larger numbers as the French attacked from the sides, hiding themselves behind trees from the returning fire.

Confusion reigned among the British troops who had no experience of fighting in such enclosed spaces – they were trained to fight in strict formation. The officers tried ▶



The American army feared open combat with the superior British forces.

YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Washington lost all his battles

Washington is remembered as a great commander, despite failing to win a single battle during the Revolutionary War. But he won the war by refusing to give up.

Washington may have dreamed of a huge victory to secure US independence, but he was repeatedly humiliated on the battlefield. He was never able to build an army of experienced officers and well-drilled soldiers. Things weren't helped by Washington's inexperience – he found himself in charge of 10,000 men having previously only commanded small forces.

The Battle of Germantown in October 1777 exposed his frailties. Washington's complicated plan of assault led to chaos, and his troops lost their nerve. From this point on, he developed a different strategy: to avoid open warfare until the French arrived in 1781. They were the decisive factor in winning the Battle of Yorktown and the war.

Complex offensive ended in chaos

An example of Washington's tactical shortcomings is the attack on Germantown in 1777. His plan proved too complicated for his troops.

1 Militia get lost American soldiers stumble through dense forest in the fog. British snipers quickly send them packing.

4 Patriots lack courage When the untrained militia see their enemy ahead, they lose heart and refuse to attack.




3 Soldiers fire on their own One flanking column gets lost in the fog. Troops open fire on ghostly figures that turn out to be their own comrades.




The flank forces are too weak to break through.

A weak attack is easily reversed by the British.

2 The main force gets stuck 150 British soldiers are barricaded in a stone building. Too many Patriots besiege the house instead of moving on.

Defeat followed defeat

BATTLE	YEAR	SOLDIERS		WINNER
				
Long Island	1776	10,000	20,000	
Brandywine	1777	14,600	15,500	
Germantown	1777	11,000	9,000	
Monmouth	1778	11,000	14,000	Draw
Yorktown	1781	*16,000	9,000	

 United Kingdom  American Patriots  French
*Half the American army consisted of professional French soldiers.

to urge their troops forward, but as they fell to the snipers' bullets, a rout began.

"The English soldiers... were struck with such a panic that they behaved with more cowardice than it is possible to conceive", Washington wrote in a letter to his mother after the battle.

Braddock was felled by a bullet to the chest, and with the rest of his officers already dead or wounded, it was up to the 23-year-old to take charge. Washington's height (at 183 cm he was unusually tall for the time) made him a tempting target for French snipers as he led the retreat on horseback. Four bullets passed through his coat and two horses were shot from under him during the escape.

"Nothing but the superintending care of Providence could have saved him from the fate of all around him", wrote one witness. This luck followed Washington throughout his military career – although he was almost always at the front with his troops, he was never wounded in battle.

Washington returned, having saved a third of Braddock's original force, and as the only officer to come back alive (Braddock died three days after the battle) his reputation was enhanced.

Colonists wanted seats in Parliament

The Anglo-French war continued, but Washington only played a small role. He refused to serve under British officers of lower rank, but the British generals refused to let such an inexperienced and untrained man take a senior post, however brave he might be.

The fighting concluded in 1763 with France forced to give up all its North

American possessions. Washington returned to his life as a plantation owner with ambitious plans that required money. To facilitate these, he married wealthy widow Martha Dandridge, who already had two children from her previous marriage. Her assets allowed Washington to buy up parcels of land as well as slaves, and in the space of a few years he became the largest landowner in Virginia.

Washington had long since given up his dream of a career in the King's army, but he considered himself an English gentleman. It irritated him whenever he received officials from London who didn't treat him as their equal.

In 1774, Washington travelled to Philadelphia to join delegates from all 13 of America's colonies and discuss a common course of action against what they perceived as British injustices. The convention drew many of North America's sharpest intellects and greatest speakers, and Washington expected to be a mere spectator with his lack of education.

But when it came for the 42-year-old to address the convention via the lectern, he impressed with his best Virginia

PRESIDENT NO. 1

Promoted after death

Washington was ranked Major-General with two stars when he led the Patriot army to independence. Later, as the American military swelled in size, Generals with four and five stars appeared. In 1976, Congress elevated Washington back to top-ranking officer when it made him a six-star General.

SHUTTERSTOCK

country squire impression, drawing on his height, unshakeable calm and simple – yet confident – words. Washington claimed to speak for everyone as he ruled out any thought of secession, but it was clear that the government back in London had to give Americans the same rights as native Britons including – crucially – seats in Parliament.

Washington returns to arms

The crisis continued to escalate – demands from the British Governor were met with counterclaims by the colonists, and some of those still loyal to the King began to sell their properties ahead of a return to the UK. Their number included some of Washington's friends, but his own position hardened as the situation deteriorated.

His personal dissatisfaction wasn't helped by the fact Washington stood to suffer a personal financial loss over what the British Governor perceived to be irregular land transactions. The Governor wanted these cancelled, which would see Washington lose an area of land 93 km² in size.

Washington and his peers completed their transformation from disgruntled British gentlemen to full-blown American rebels when in 1775 Parliament declared that Massachusetts was in a state of rebellion. On 18th April, attempts to disarm the Massachusetts militia led to open combat at Lexington and Concord, and the militia then besieged the British in Boston.

War could no longer be averted, and when the Second Continental Congress convened, Washington appeared in military uniform to join the rebellion.

While the siege continued, leading Patriots – as the rebels dubbed themselves – met to

French superhero helps America secure aid

America's struggle for freedom attracted French nobleman, the Marquis de Lafayette, Aged 19, he enlisted with Washington, who instantly made him a Major-General to solicit French support for the war. Newspaper reports made Lafayette a star in Paris.

When he returned home on leave, Lafayette received a hero's welcome and had an audience with Louis XVI. His actions helped secure greater French support for the war.

Marquis Lafayette went to America to help George Washington's cause.

AKG IMAGES



appoint a commander. Although other candidates had more military experience, Washington proved a popular choice. He was nominated by John Adams, later his Vice-President, who later described him as possessing “a handsome face”, “a tall stature”, “an elegant form” and “graceful attitudes and movement”.

Washington also possessed self-control and the ability to remain calm in a crisis, but his primary appeal was that he came from Virginia. At that point, the Confederate colonies had avoided any fighting – by putting one of their men at the head of the army, the Patriots would ensure they remained loyal to the cause.

Resisting the British

Washington faced an almost impossible task when he took command of the militia outside Boston. He had to forge an army from civilians led by patriotic, but inexperienced officers whose few guns were old and mismatched, lacking both bayonets and gunpowder. Fortunately, Boston proved impossible to defend, and after a 10-month siege, the British sailed away in March, 1776, only to return in greater numbers that summer as an invasion fleet landed outside New York.

Washington assembled 10,000 men at Brooklyn Heights, where they planned to halt the enemy's advance. He encouraged his troops to show courage, but also threatened to shoot cowards on the spot and issued contradictory and confusing orders. Nothing had prepared him to command such a large army in battle. Washington set up lines of defence on higher ground, but they were so long and full of gaps that thousands of British troops crept through under cover of darkness without being spotted.

The next morning, the British attacked the Americans from the rear, forcing more than 1,000 soldiers to surrender.

“In general, our Generals were out generalled,” was John Adams’ sardonic remark. Washington’s aim was now simple: abandon New York and save ▶

Washington's personal income was largely dependent on slavery.

SHUTTERSTOCK

Washington's guilty conscience

He may have honoured freedom, but Washington kept slaves on his plantation. He opposed slavery in principle, but made no attempts to end the practice.

Washington got his first slaves aged 11

Washington's father died in 1743, bequeathing his son some land and 10 slaves. He acquired more slaves as he purchased more land and needed extra labour to cultivate it.

In 1769 he won 55 slaves in a raffle,

and by his death in 1799, Washington and his wife Martha owned 277 slaves between them.

Government sent on a manhunt

In 1796, Mrs Washington's personal slave – Oney Judge – escaped. She was later spotted hiding in New Hampshire, and Washington asked The Secretary of the Treasury to use local treasury staff to abduct and bring her back. The attempt was abandoned in the face of local opposition and Judge remained free.

NEWSPAPER ADVERT

“Absconded from... the President of the United States, ONEY JUDGE, a light mulatto girl, much freckled, with very black eyes and bushy hair. She is of middle stature, slender, and delicately formed, about 20 years of age.”



Washington bent the rules

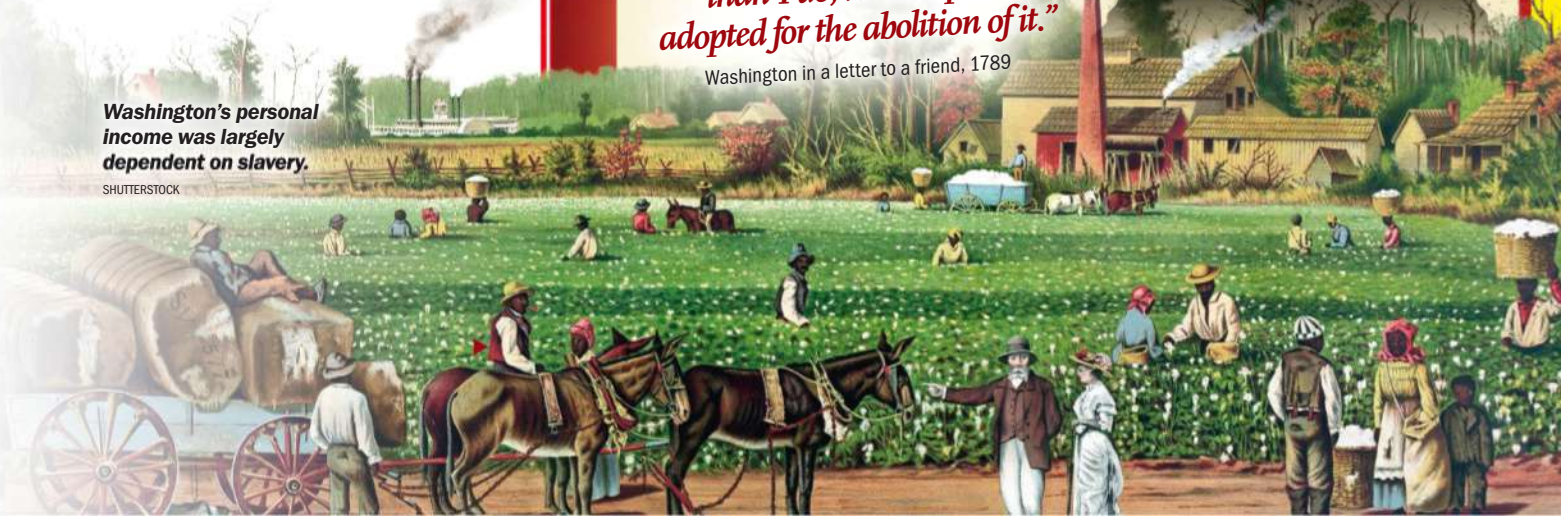
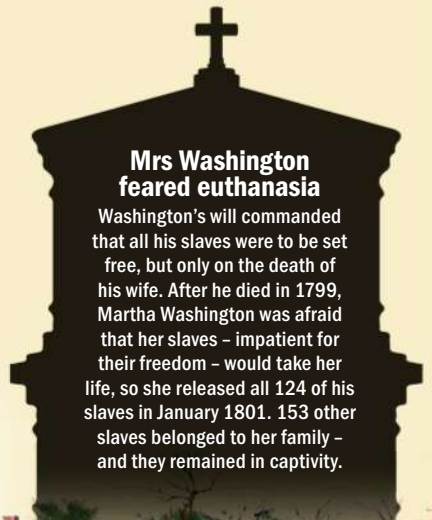
As president, Washington signed laws that forbade slavery in parts of the United States. But he also made use of any loopholes in the rules if they imposed restrictions on himself. The government was based in Philadelphia at the time, where local laws gave slaves their freedom after six month's stay. Washington would rotate his staff to ensure they went back to his Virginia plantation before their six months was up.

“There is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it.”

Washington in a letter to a friend, 1789

Mrs Washington feared euthanasia

Washington's will commanded that all his slaves were to be set free, but only on the death of his wife. After he died in 1799, Martha Washington was afraid that her slaves – impatient for their freedom – would take her life, so she released all 124 of his slaves in January 1801. 153 other slaves belonged to her family – and they remained in captivity.



the rest of his army. This problem he could solve. As the British prepared a final assault, Washington pulled his army back and ferried them unseen across the East River without losing a single man.

"On our side, the War should be defensive", Washington wrote after the retreat. "We should, on all occasions

avoid a general Action or put anything at risk unless compelled by a necessity into which we ought never to be drawn". This tactic proved wise – in 1777, Washington engaged directly with the enemy twice, only to suffer humiliating defeats on both occasions. After this, he realised his officers and soldiers

couldn't measure up to the well-drilled British forces. His main task was simply to keep his army intact – and while the strategy was unpopular with politicians, Washington had the perfect riposte:

"I can assure those Gentlemen that it is a much easier and less distressing thing to draw remonstrances in a comfortable

The Constitution was a compromise

On 17th September, 1787, the United States ratified its Constitution with Washington presiding. It marked the end of a bitter battle for power in the new nation.

GETTY IMAGES

The Constitution's Saviour

Roger Sherman bridged the divide between the warring factions. He suggested the Connecticut Compromise, which mixed in parts of the New Jersey Plan with the Virginia Plan.

The Small State Plan

William Paterson presented the New Jersey plan, where each individual state had equal representation in the federal legislature, regardless of their size. Federal power would also be limited.

Kingmaker

Alexander Hamilton believed that Presidents should be elected for life. His proposal was ignored.

America's smartest man

The scientist and philosopher Benjamin Franklin asked everyone to sign the final draft of the United States Constitution.

The Constitution came into being in the Independence Hall in Philadelphia – the same location as the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Two terms – and out

After two four-year terms in office, George Washington declared himself tired of politics. He retired, and set a precedent that wasn't broken until Franklin D Roosevelt was elected for a third and then a fourth term in the 1940s. After Roosevelt's death, the Constitution was amended to force Presidents to stand down after two terms.

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room by a good fire side than to occupy a cold bleak hill and sleep under frost and snow without cloths or blankets”.

Usually, however, Washington kept his relations cordial – only rarely did he show a fiery temper. His self-control, politeness and confidence were key reasons why he was never replaced. No one else had the

ability to hold together the rag-tag Patriot army against their professional opponents.

France's decisive intervention

The war dragged on, with neither side able to strike the killing blow. In the end, the key factor that swung things the Patriots' way was the decision ▶

Two competing constitutional proposals

Virginia Plan

- US gets a strong central government.
- Congress consists of two chambers, which create laws.
- Large states have more seats in Congress than smaller ones.

80% WAS USED

New Jersey Plan

- United States remains a loose association of powerful states.
- Congress has only one chamber.
- Each province will have an equal number of seats regardless of size.

20% WAS USED

CONNECTICUT COMPROMISE

- Virginia Plan is the basis for the Constitution.
- However, in the Senate the New Jersey Plan's proposal was implemented, giving each state a single vote to provide a measure of equal representation.

The nation's first President

George Washington did not take part in the negotiations. He believed that he was supposed to be politically neutral, and simply signed the final document.

Rebel

Gunning Bedford Jr. said that his home state of Delaware would return to the United Kingdom rather than accept the Virginia Plan.

The brain behind the Constitution

James Madison proposed the Virginia Plan, which called for a strong central government where larger states had more influence.

by France to intervene on their behalf. Thousands of well-trained troops were dispatched to North America in 1780 under the command of the French Count Jean-Baptiste Rochambeau, and while Washington remained its nominal head, Rochambeau's strategic acumen ultimately broke the long stalemate in the Patriot's favour.

In August 1781, Rochambeau and Washington marched south to Virginia,

where they lay siege to more than 9,000 British troops at Yorktown in September. After days of bombardment, the British surrendered in a humiliating defeat that effectively ended the war.

Two years of negotiations followed before a peace agreement was finally signed, heralding American independence. Washington found himself a hero, but difficult decisions awaited him. The French departed

and left the Americans on their own for the last two years of the conflict. The treasury was bare and unpaid soldiers were starting to grow restless – particularly when Congress appeared to be on the verge of reneging on a promise of pensions for the troops.

An anonymous letter circulated among the soldiers suggesting they take action to demand their dues, and Washington was solicited to act as their head, using

A capital city is born – by horse trading

In 1790, Congress passed the Residence Act to “establish the temporary and permanent seat of the Government of the United States”. But agreeing on a location would prove tricky.

Congress wanted to create a capital that lay outside the jurisdiction of any one state, but politicians had bickered over where the city should be. They'd even briefly considered

giving the US two separate capitals, but settled on a compromise. Southern states had paid off their debts from the War of Independence, and now offered to take on some of the northern states' debt

if the capital was built in the south in an area bordering Virginia and Maryland.

Three commissioners were duly despatched to choose the exact spot, and they named the US's first capital after Washington himself. The architect Pierre L'Enfant produced a plan with beautiful tree-lined avenues and grandiose, expensive buildings, but it had to be scaled back due to budgetary constraints.

Pennsylvania Avenue

The parade between the White House and the Capitol was a muddy dirt road, until it was finally paved in 1832.

The Mall is the nation's memorial

Originally conceived to be a magnificent boulevard linking the Capitol to the river, the Mall became a park full of historical monuments instead.

White House was a cheap option

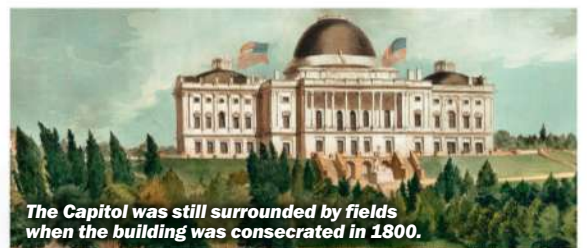
L'Enfant's plan was to build a lavish palace for the President, but budgetary constraints led to the creation of a “pleasant country residence”, which has been expanded several times since.



The first Presidents spent a lot of time receiving curious citizens.

Capitol borrowed from the Louvre in Paris

Congress, which consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, moved to the Capitol building, named after Capitol Hill in Rome. Its middle columns were a direct copy of those in the Paris Louvre.



The Capitol was still surrounded by fields when the building was consecrated in 1800.

Dollar bill survives

The artist Gilbert Stuart's famous portrait of Washington has adorned the dollar bill since 1869. Calculations suggest the federal government could save billions by phasing out the bill in favour of dollar coins, but any plans for replacing it are met with fierce opposition.

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the threat of a military coup to squeeze concessions out of the politicians.

"The army is a dangerous instrument to play with", Washington wrote. He had no desire to elevate himself to dictator, and said as much in a meeting with army officers: "Let me entreat you, gentlemen, on your part, not to take any measures, which... will lessen the dignity, and sully the glory you have hitherto maintained".

Washington had demonstrated his ambition and willingness to lead others, but in the face of such a conspiracy, he was an unwavering democrat – how could it be honourable to take power from the leaders after the people had chosen to represent themselves?

Washington attempts to retire

With his war over, Washington looked forward to a more peaceful life. In London, George III asked whether the rebel General would now be Commander or Head of State. He was shocked when told Washington intended to retire to his plantation for a quieter existence.

"If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world", the King exclaimed.

In December 1783, Washington duly met up with Congress to resign.

"Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action", he announced, hands shaking with emotion. "And bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my Commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life".

Tumultuous applause followed, and tears flowed freely. Washington could have taken more power than anyone else, but instead gave it all up. He went home to his plantation on Mount Vernon. The nation, however, was not done with its national hero. First, he served as President of the Convention that drew up the US Constitution in 1787, and was then elected unanimously as the nation's first President in 1789.

A President who loathed politics

The presidency had been created specifically for Washington, with the freedom to define the office as he saw fit. He was careful to avoid emulating European royal courts, keeping the titles and trappings republican in style. One way in which he did emulate George III was to make his role mostly ceremonial, leaving most of the work to

the politicians. He did, however, deign to be referred to as "Your Excellency".

Although the Constitution gave the President the right to veto laws, Washington only used this privilege twice. First, to block a law that would give more seats in Congress to America's northern states, and second to prevent cuts to the army. With no input from Washington, his ministers were left to set government policy, and deep divisions soon came to the surface.

Alexander Hamilton, as Secretary of the Treasury, wished to build a financially powerful nation with a strong federal government, but was opposed by Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. Factions coalesced around them, which eventually evolved into America's first political parties, a development that frustrated Washington. His ideal was that the country's leaders should discuss solutions and then unite to implement them. When he left the Presidency,

he gave a lengthy address that warned against party politics:

"The common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of the party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it".

Two years later, George Washington died aged 67. He had lived for glory and honour, and became a symbol for liberty and nationalism the world over, not just in the newborn nation.

FURTHER READING

- Ron Chernow: **Washington: A Life**, Penguin, 2010
- Stephen Brumwell: **George Washington: Gentleman Warrior**, Quercus, 2012



NAPOLÉON



WASHINGTON

BOLÍVAR
South America's rebel hero would rather be a Napoleon than a Washington.

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South Americans preferred Napoleon

Washington was admired by those South Americans who dreamed of breaking away from Spain. He was a role model until a new hero showed up. In 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte seized power in France, and he demonstrated that the road to freedom need not be a democratic one.

A young South American named Simón Bolívar was among the

spectators when Napoleon crowned himself Emperor. Later, Bolívar led a rebellion against Spain, and in 1821 became ruler of Gran Colombia, which included modern-day Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama and parts of Brazil and Peru. He ruled as a dictator, but stepped down after 10 years having failed to bridge divisions as the union started to dissolve.

USA's first 13 states

BY MORTEN RENDSMARK

Between 1607-1733, the British established no less than 13 colonies in North America, stretching from the coniferous forests in the north to the great swamps of Georgia in the South. It was a huge area of land that separated North America's 2.5 million colonists – a distance that was both geographical and cultural. But the settlers united behind one common cause: a growing desire for independence from Britain. In 1776, the colonies united to launch the bloody War of Independence – and 13 years later, George Washington would become the first President of the United States.

1 North Carolina

Early settlers vanish without trace

In the 1580s, English settlers made two attempts to establish a colony on Roanoke Island off America's east coast – both disappeared without trace. Back in Britain rumours abounded about what happened to the "lost colony". It wasn't until 1653 that settlers successfully established themselves in North Carolina.

2 Virginia

The first colony becomes a tobacco mecca

In 1607, 105 colonists arrived in Virginia from England. Over 70 starved to death in the first winter. The rest were saved by native chieftain Powhatan and his daughter Pocahontas, who gave them food to survive. Pocahontas subsequently married Englishman John Rolfe, who built a lucrative tobacco industry.

4 New York

Dutch play by the book

Enterprising Dutch colonists only took on land they bought, paid for and registered. For example, in 1626 they "purchased" the island of Manhattan from local natives with goods worth around 60 Dutch guilders. This area became known as New Netherlands until it was occupied by the British in 1664, who renamed it after the King's brother, the Duke of York.

3 New Jersey

Free land for all!

Dutch fur traders settled down on the west side of the Hudson River in 1613. 51 years later, the English conquered the area and attracted colonists with the promise of free land to immigrants – if they could provide supplies for six months and a decent musket.

5 Massachusetts

Disliked Christians welcome here

On board the *Mayflower*, 41 members of a persecuted Christian minority – the Puritans – arrived in November 1620. These hard-working pilgrims settled in an area that the natives call Massachusetts – the "place with the big hills".

Massachusetts
1620

Connecticut
1636

Virginia
1607

North Carolina
1585

Georgia
1733



Originally, the US consisted of 13 states. Today there are 50 – spread from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific in the west.

6 New Hampshire

Founder made money from timber

In 1623, English captain John Mason was allowed to colonise the area along the Piscataqua River, where he made his fortune in the timber trade. Mason named the colony after his home county of Hampshire back in England.

7 Maryland

Brutal civil war shatters colony

In 1634, Maryland was colonised by English Catholics. 16 years later, new Protestant arrivals triggering a year-long religious war and overthrew the Catholic regime in favour of a Puritan one. In 1688, William III prohibited Catholicism in Maryland.

8 Rhode Island

Banned priest buys himself a colony

Preacher Roger Williams was banished from Massachusetts because his sermons were too liberal. Disillusioned, Williams headed south, where he bought land from the Narraganset Indians. Williams called his new colony “a home of religious freedom”.

9 Connecticut

Native Americans sold their land

In 1636, pioneers left Massachusetts and entered the fertile valley along the Connecticut River. Here, they bought land from the native Mohegans, who together with the Mahican tribe, inspired the novel “Last of the Mohicans”.

10 Delaware

The Swedish tobacco colony

In 1638, Swedish settlers settled along the Delaware River, naming their colony New Sweden. From here, colonists exported tobacco and furs to their homeland until the Dutch conquered the territory and absorbed it in 1655.

11 South Carolina

Natives rise in brutal insurgency

English plantation owners from Barbados founded South Carolina in 1663. Here they started to intensively cultivate rice and indigo used for dye, using Native American slaves, but their harsh treatment led to a bloody rebellion in 1751. The Yamasee War saw a group of local tribes drive the colonists back to Charleston before the Cherokee allied with the colonists against their old enemy the Creek, to fight back.

12 Pennsylvania

Colony pays the King's debts

In 1681, Charles II surrendered a large piece of his North American holdings to Quaker William Penn in lieu of a £16,000 debt. The pacifist Quakers were given self-rule while they remained loyal to the throne. Penn was an early advocate for uniting the colonies, and Philadelphia was where the Continental Congresses convened.

13 Georgia

Everyone wants to get hold of Georgia

For almost a hundred years, Georgia stood on the front line between the British colonies, Spanish Florida and the French territories west of the Mississippi River.

In the early 1700s, the British – aided by local natives – successfully ran Spanish missionaries out of the area before importing German and Czech Protestants into the colony to subdue the Catholic population.

George Washington led the American colonies to victory in the War of Independence – and became America's first president.

AKO IMAGES



America was founded on alcohol

The founders of the United States spent as much time in their glasses as they did reviewing important documents. From Jefferson to Washington, the Founding Fathers loved a drink. Without booze, the Declaration of Independence might never have happened.

BY BENJAMIN THOMAS CHRISTENSEN

US elite drank to freedom

The American Founding Fathers led the nation during the struggle for independence and celebrated victory with drunken revelry.

On the evening of September 15, 1787, America's leading politicians meet at the Philadelphia Beverage City Tavern to hold a farewell party for General George Washington. Spirits are high among the many patrons – who sing and yell all night long – and in just a couple of days, several of them will reconvene to sign the United States' first free constitution.

Several times during the evening, the glasses are raised to toast the General and the success of the fight for freedom, and the waiters repeatedly head down to the basement to bring up fresh supplies for the thirsty Founding

Fathers. The scene is a typical one in the United States in the late 1700s, where most of the population drink – a lot.

Alcohol also permeates the political system, where hustings usually take place in inns and hostels, so no one has to be sober while listening to politicians. On election day, it's common for candidates to buy their way to success by offering free rounds to voters before they cast their ballots.

The new American nation is a binge fest of whisky, rum, wine, beer and cider, and the Founding Fathers lead the way when it comes to drink.

INNKEEPER RECORDED ALCOHOL INTAKE

The City Tavern's owner revealed how much his patrons drank the next day. In total, 55 guests consumed nothing less than:

60 bottles of Bordeaux wine
54 bottles of Madeira
22 bottles of porter beer
12 bottles of plain beer
8 bottles of whisky
8 bottles of strong cider
7 bowls of alcoholic punch

The innkeeper at the City Tavern allegedly sent the bill for the party directly to the new government.



ALAMY/IMAGES/SELECT

Diplomat invented new words for drunkenness

- **Name:** Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)
- **Title:** inventor, diplomat, etc.

Today, Benjamin Franklin is considered one of the greatest among the Founding Fathers, but in his lifetime he was just as well known for his love of alcohol – and in particular Madeira wine.

In fact, Franklin spent so much time on the booze that he invented 220 new phrases for being drunk. He repeatedly expressed his great love of alcohol through his speeches and writings, coming up with quotes like, “In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria”, as well as, “Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.”

MADEIRA

“His head is full of bees”

“Been at Barbados”

“He’s seen the Devil”

“In his element”

“Cock ey’d”

“His flag is out”

“Has stole a manchet out of the brewer’s basket”

“He’s kiss’d black Betty”

“As drunk as a beggar”

“Took his drops”

“Got the Indian vapours”

“He sees two moons”

“As dizzy as a goose”

“He sees the bears”

Franklin developed a method to brew beer using spruce needles.

20,000

bottles of wine, costing around \$1.3 million at today’s prices, were imported by Jefferson into the White House’s wine cellar during his tenure as president.

WINE

RUM

Alcohol elevator made life easier

- **Name:** Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)
- **Title:** politician and president

Thomas Jefferson was the man who drafted the Declaration of Independence. Few realise, however, that in his time he was known as America’s biggest wine connoisseur,

and everyone turned to him for recommendations on what to drink. Jefferson’s estate at Monticello housed both a winery and a brewery, and he frequently held lavish parties. To spare his servants frequent trips to the wine cellar, he installed a dumbwaiter.

“Summer is advanced when you receive this letter, so do not waste time and send the goods immediately”.

Thomas Jefferson in a letter to a wine supplier, 1816



Jefferson downed glasses of Madeira while drafting the Declaration of Independence at The Indian Queen Tavern in Philadelphia.

Smuggler rebelled

- **Name:** John Hancock (1737-1793)
- **Title:** merchant and statesman

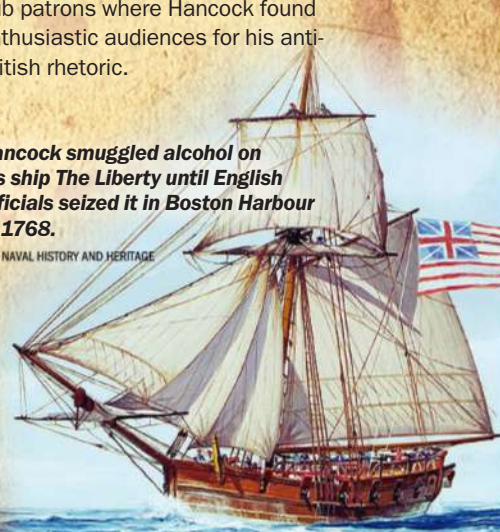
1700s America united rich and poor in their love of one specific drink: rum.

The British government had made rum production an expensive business with taxes on sugar and molasses, so the smuggling of Spanish and Dutch rum became an important part of the resistance to royal rule from London.

Among the many rum smugglers was future Founding Father John Hancock. The income from his smuggling activities was mostly used to buy rounds for local pub patrons where Hancock found enthusiastic audiences for his anti-British rhetoric.

Hancock smuggled alcohol on his ship *The Liberty* until English officials seized it in Boston Harbour in 1768.

U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE



MADEIRA

Lawyer grew sick of sobriety

- **Name:** John Adams (1735-1826)
- **Title:** lawyer and president

John Adams acquired a drinking habit at an early age – by the age of 15 he was studying at Harvard and drinking a strong beer for breakfast every day. When he reached adulthood, Adams migrated to a daily tankard of hard cider.

During a visit to Philadelphia, Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail: "I am getting

nothing that I can drink, and I believe I shall be sick from this cause alone".

On another occasion, Adams attempted to exploit his immunity as a diplomat at the French court to send 500 bottles of Bordeaux wine to the United States without paying taxes or duties (he was unsuccessful). His favourite tipple, however, was Madeira – he ended each day with three glasses.

Adams' son, John Quincy, once took a blind Madeira test and got 11 out of 14 brands right.

FRENCH TRAVELLER WAS SHOCKED BY ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

French traveller Moreau de Saint-Méry described a typical Adams' family gathering: "Bottles go the round continuously, each man pouring for himself. Toasts are drunk, cigars are lighted, diners run to the corners of the room hunting night tables and vases which will enable them to hold a greater amount of liquor".

655

litres of rum, punch, cider, wine and beer were distributed by Washington to as many polling places as possible during the 1758 Virginia State election. He won by 68 votes.

BEER

Brewer partied on

- **Name:** Samuel Adams (1722-1803)
- **Title:** philosopher and brewer

In addition to being a Founding Father, Samuel Adams was also a brewer, inheriting his father's business. However,

Adams didn't just produce beer, he also drank copious quantities himself. In 1769, he dined with 350 others in a tavern in Dorchester to commemorate the Stamp Act riot of 1765. No fewer than 45 celebratory toasts were made to "all true patriots throughout the world", although fellow reveller, the future President John Adams, noted, "I did not see one Person intoxicated, or near it."

The Boston Beer Company brewery named a beer after Samuel Adams.



SHUTTERSTOCK

WINE

Judge only drank in the rain

- **Name:** John Marshall (1755-1835)
- **Title:** judge and politician

As one of the US's first Supreme Court judges, John Marshall should have followed the letter of the law, but like many of his political friends, he was not above bribing voters with free drinks if they'd vote for him.

The judge enjoyed a tipple himself – however, in the boarding house where he lived and frequently entertained his fellow justices, they were only permitted to drink on rainy days. One day, Marshall solicited his colleague, Judge Joseph Story, to look out of the window to check the weather. Story reported back that the sun shone, at which point Marshall replied dryly:

"Somewhere in our broad jurisdiction it must surely be raining."

From that point on, Marshall and his fellows enjoyed wine with every meal, irrespective of the weather.

Local winemakers named their best-quality bottles "The Supreme Court" in honour of Judge Marshall's love of wine.





Friends had to cart soldier home

- **Name:** Ethan Allen (1738-1789)
- **Title:** soldier, farmer and politician
"He used to drink hard at times". Thus spoke a contemporary of soldier and politician Ethan Allen.

During the War of Independence, Allen led The Green Mountain Boys, a group

of local militia based in the mountains of Vermont. When they weren't fighting, Allen and his men were drinking.

Allen's favourite tipple was brandy, and his binge drinking often led to him being placed on a cart so his friends could ferry him home like a sack of potatoes.

A drunk Allen was once allegedly bitten by a rattlesnake while asleep. He woke to complain about mosquitoes.

SHUTTERSTOCK

BRANDY

WHISKY

President kept a drink diary

For many, George Washington is one of the biggest heroes in United States' history. But few know that the country's first president was deeply addicted to alcohol – and spent most of his spare time producing and consuming it.

- **Name:** George Washington (1732-1799)
- **Title:** general and president

The US's war hero and first president, George Washington, didn't simply lead the battle in the field, but also from the local tavern. Most of the revolutionary war was fought using local inns as headquarters – and every day Washington eagerly recorded in his diary how much he'd drank.

The general's consumption was enormous, even for the time. Accounting books from the presidential era reveal that his alcoholic budget was 1,000 per cent higher than the average American. Admittedly he received many guests as

president, all of whom drank their share, but from his young days Washington spent up to a tenth of his personal income on booze.

The drunk general had a particular love of whisky, but Washington wasn't simply interested in drinking alcohol, he was an avid producer too. From his plantation at Mount Vernon, Washington produced more than 41,000 litres per year.

In addition to whisky, Washington was also fond of the strong rum-based Fish House Punch. The drink was invented in a Philadelphia club in 1732, and quickly became popular throughout the colonies. Washington once drank so much punch it took him three days to sober up enough to mention the episode in his diary.

Washington's distillery was the US's largest whisky producer in his lifetime.



Fish House Punch got its name from the pub where it was invented.



Recipe for Fish House punch

235 ml rum
235 ml Cognac
120 ml arrack
180 ml lemon juice
½ cup sugar
Grated lemon rind
3 tsp of black tea
235 ml hot water
Nutmeg
Ice

preparation:

Brew a pot of black tea. Mix the lemon rind with sugar, add the arrack to this mixture and light it. Add the tea to extinguish the flame. Next, add the ice, rum, brandy and lemon juice to the mixture. Let the drink stand for 10-15 minutes, then pour it into chilled glasses. Sprinkle with grated nutmeg.

America's fight for freedom

In the 1750s the British Empire fought numerous wars against the Indians and French in North America. To cover the high costs, the government in London demanded extra tax from its North American colonists. These taxes triggered a wave of protests, which in 1775 developed into an armed uprising. For the next six years, the colonists fought a war of freedom against the world's strongest military force before winning their independence. The rebel's ideals of freedom, equality and democracy have since permeated the Western world.

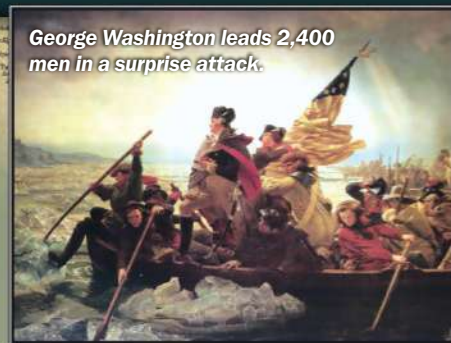


SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

British take New York

27th August: British forces focus on conquering New York. 22,000 soldiers land on Long Island and come to blows with rebel forces at Brooklyn Heights. The battle is the largest of the War of Independence and ends in major defeat for the Americans, who are forced to abandon New York. 1,700 rebels die or are captured, while Washington is forced to flee with the rest of his army.

George Washington leads 2,400 men in a surprise attack.



METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Washington's offensive

26th December: the Revolutionary Army needs a win. In a desperate attempt to reverse the war, Washington decides to go on the offensive. He crosses the Delaware River **2**, attacks Trenton in New Jersey and captures 1,000 German mercenaries in a morale-boosting victory.

1779

British try terror tactics

July: Britain launches a terror campaign to try and force the rebels to surrender. From the sea, they bombard cities, while getting their Native American allies to attack isolated, vulnerable settlements.

September-October: American and French forces try to regain Savannah. The attack proves disastrous, with 800 dead and 1,200 injured.

1780

America versus America

12th May: British forces conquer Charleston in South Carolina – the most important port city in the southern states. The Revolutionary Army withdraws.



The rebels were forced out of Charleston.

7th October: pro-royalist Americans and revolutionaries clash in Kings Mountain **5**, North Carolina. The revolutionaries gain a significant victory, effectively ending any further American military support for Britain.

EARLY AMERICA

1775

New colonial taxes trigger uprising

19th April: Britain introduces new taxes while restricting self-rule for the 13 American colonies. The colonists form an underground government and set up local militias. British troops march into Concord **1** in Massachusetts to confiscate their weapons, but find themselves forced back to the English capital of Boston, 50 kilometres to the east.

17th June: the Revolutionary Army decides to lay siege to Boston with the aim of taking it. The rebels dig into their surrounding positions while British attempts to break out lead to heavy losses.

1776



Britain's American capital was founded at Boston in 1630.

Boston is lost

17th March: under George Washington's command, the Revolutionary Army subjects Boston to a heavy barrage from its artillery. The British are forced to retreat, leaving the 13 colonies under American control.

"All men are created equal"

4th July: the Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence, which is drafted by Thomas Jefferson. It includes the following statement, now famous as underpinning the American nation:

"All men are created equal... that among [their inalienable rights] are... Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness".

Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence.

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1777

British seize Philadelphia

6th July: the British attack the state of New York from Canada and conquer Fort Mifflin **3**. The rebels lay siege and the British lose 2,000 men.

26th September: 15,000 British soldiers march into the rebels' main city of Philadelphia without encountering any resistance. 15 days earlier on 11th September, Washington was unable to halt their advance after his troops were beaten in the Battle of Brandywine Creek.

Hard winter camp

December 1777-June 1778: the Revolutionary Army overwinters in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania **4**. 2,500 out of the 10,000 Americans die from disease, but the army emerges stronger after a strict training regime.



George Washington spent the winter with his revolutionary troops.

1778

Help for the rebels

6th February: the war takes on an international dimension as France joins forces with the Americans. A year later, France's ally Spain also enters the war, followed by the Netherlands in 1780. All three countries had previously backed the insurgents with money, equipment and supplies.

British fall back to New York

June: Britain abandons Philadelphia to strengthen its New York position, which is vulnerable to attack from the French navy. The same month, rebels gain control of all the northern colonies.

29th December: Britain concentrates on the south. With no resistance, they're able to occupy Savannah, Georgia, where many remain loyal to the king.



SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

1781

Battle of Yorktown

January-May: Americans secure another big win at the Battle of Cowpens **6**. The British are forced back to the port city of Yorktown in Virginia.

5th September: in Chesapeake Bay, 19 British ships battle 24 French vessels. It ends with Britain losing its first naval battle.

17th October: after a three-week bombardment, the British forces in Yorktown surrender. It's the last big battle of the war.



This painting was supposed to commemorate peace, but the British refused to join and it was never finished.

1782

Britain finally loses America

March-April: after defeat at Yorktown, the War of Independence has become so unpopular that British Prime Minister Lord North is forced to resign. The House of Commons decides to end hostilities in North America.

November-December: the British evacuate Savannah and Charleston. On 30th November, a provisional agreement is concluded. Peace is officially signed in Paris the following year.

ege

FRANCE

BLOOD FELL FROM THE SCAFFOLD

Revolution rarely ends with casting out the king. This was France's experience after the people took power in 1789. At first, nobles were executed and four years later, it was the monarch's turn on the guillotine. Eventually 40,000 French people were beheaded in a single year during the Reign of Terror.



16 facts about THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

In 1789 the French Revolution, which lasted 10 years, cost thousands of lives and put an end to absolute monarchy. But what were the causes, who were allies and enemies, and why did so many end up on the guillotine?

BY NATASJA BROSTRÖM

1 Why did the French revolt?



HAIL STORMS DISRUPTED HARVEST

For several years, harvests failed due to rain and hail storms. The price of flour shot up, and by the summer of 1789 a load of bread cost 14 sous, or 80 per cent of a worker's daily wage. Thousands of peasants and workers were forced to sell their last possessions to afford food and pay their taxes. Inequality and a lack of bread pushed their anger to boiling point.



ROYAL COUPLE FRITTERED AWAY A FORTUNE

Louis XVI spent around 1.5 billion livres in military aid to the Americans in the War of Independence (1775-88) against France's arch-enemy, Britain. When the treasury was empty, the king raised expensive loans and increased taxes. Meanwhile, the royal couple continued to live in the lap of luxury and showed no interest in the starving population.



THE FOREIGN QUEEN WAS DIVISIVE AND PROVOCATIVE

Queen Marie-Antoinette was the daughter of the Austrian Emperor, and her marriage to Louis XVI was made to reconcile the two rival nations. The French people doubted her loyalty, however, and dubbed her Madame Deficit thanks to her spiralling gambling debts and construction of The Queen's Hamlet, a private retreat at Versailles.

The hat belonged to a freed slave

The Liberty cap became a popular symbol of freedom in revolutionary France. Also known as the Phrygian cap, the hat was originally given to slaves after they were freed by their masters in ancient Rome.

The flag is from the revolution

France's Tricolour flag was introduced around 1790, and each of its three colours stand for the slogan: "Liberty, equality, fraternity". There's no consensus on which colour stands for what.

A woman called Marianne

The French chose a female as a symbol of revolution and freedom. She was named Marianne because it was a common name and she represented the people.

Naked breasts symbolise freedom

The artist Delacroix painted the woman with bare feet and bared breasts to emphasise that she was not an ordinary, mortal person, but a symbol of freedom.

A divine dress

In the early 1800s, artists illustrated abstract concepts such as freedom and reason using women wearing Greek and Roman costume. They were to be viewed as ancient classical goddesses.

2 Who is the woman in the painting?

(And why does she **bare her breasts**?)

A female figure had already become the symbol of the French Revolution during the revolution, which is why a woman represents freedom in Eugène Delacroix's painting 'Liberty leading the people' from 1830.

Delacroix probably chose a female symbol because the French monarchy had used masculine symbols and images of its male rulers. After the monarchy was overthrown, it became popular for political pamphlets to use women to symbolise the Republic. It proved a good fit for the words "La France" and "La République", both of which are female.

During the revolution in 1789, the woman became known as Marianne, one of the most common names in 18th century France. The name was meant to symbolise the fact she was a part of the people.

In July 1830, France was once again in rebellion, and the July Revolution inspired Delacroix's painting, which he subsequently packed with symbols from the previous revolution.

3 Who had the power?

2%

THE NOBILITY

- Didn't pay tax
- Had the right to vote
- Owned the most land

1%

THE CLERGY

- Didn't pay tax
- Had a lot of power

97%

CITIZENS

- Paid around 50% tax
- Could be punished without trial
- Didn't have voting rights

4 When did the revolution begin?

14TH JULY, 1789



Prison Bastille was a symbol of oppression.

In July 1789, a rumour circulated in Paris that the king's soldiers would attack the city. Louis XVI had assembled a small army outside of Paris to quickly crack down on any potential uprising, but he didn't anticipate that the whole of Paris would rise against him. On 14 July, a crowd of 20,000 stormed the Bastille to seize the stock of ammunition held in the fortress's basement. The commander, the Marquis de Launay, surrendered on the promise that no one would be

hurt. His reward was to be hacked to death by the angry mob who fixed his head on a pike.

The Bastille had no military significance, but its conquest had enormous symbolic value. Revolutionary newspapers hailed the event as the start of the revolution, and 14th July would become France's National Day. A rumour soon spread that lots of innocent prisoners had been freed, but the story was propaganda, because the prison was barely used anymore – in fact, it only held seven prisoners. Prison Bastille was little more than a symbol of oppression.

5 Did Marie Antoinette really say: "If they have no bread, let them eat cake"?

No, probably not. The rumour arose because the queen hid when 7,000 hungry women arrived at the palace to demand bread.



6 What were the key events?

The people tried to share power by creating a more democratic form of government.
But when the king got cold feet and opposed them, angry citizens took arms against him.

New assembly is proclaimed

17TH JUNE, 1789
 Louis XVI convenes the Estates General, where delegates of the clergy, nobility and citizens meet. The three quarrel over the right to vote, which the Third Estate representing the citizens believes should be universal. It ends up proclaiming itself The National Assembly.

Tennis Court Oath

20TH JUNE
 The king attempts to resist by shutting down the Salle des Etats where the Assembly met. The Third Estate angrily marches to a nearby tennis court where they swear an oath to draft a new constitution.

Government changes

27TH JUNE
 Nearly 200 members of the other estates (clergy and nobility) join the Third Estate. They agree to demands such as the lifting of censorship and a tax based on wealth. The king is forced to accept the situation and urges the other members to join the National Assembly.

Storming of The Bastille

14TH JULY
 The king, regretting his support, assembles 20,000 troops outside Paris, amid fears they will be used to shut down the new government. In anger, Parisians storm the Bastille and people take up arms across much of the country.

Women march to Versailles

5TH OCTOBER
 Women march from Paris to Versailles demanding bread. They end up storming the palace and forcing the royal family to return to the capital where they are placed under house arrest. Two years later, the family will make an unsuccessful attempt to escape.

The storming of the Tuilleries

10TH AUGUST, 1792
 Citizens and soldiers storm the Tuilleries Palace, where the royal family are imprisoned. They briefly take refuge in the Legislative Assembly, before being moved to The Temple prison.

7 Did the citizens have weapons?

SICKLE COULD KILL

Everyday tools and harvesting tools could easily be used as weapons. For example, the sharp and pointed sickle that was normally used by peasants to harvest grain.

EVERYONE OWNED A PITCHFORK

Both citizens and peasants had pitchforks, which were used to move hay and straw in barns. Also good for stabbing.

SOME HAD GUNS

Many soldiers killed their superiors and joined the revolution. They brought guns and rifles with them, while civilians got hold of firearms by raiding garrisons and arms' dealers.

THE RICH WERE IMPALED ON PIKES

A pike was a long spear that could be used for many different purposes: agricultural, hunting and fishing as well as in war. Ideal for impaling a decapitated head to put on display.

8 What did the people want?



BREAD ON THE TABLE!

Bread was the staple food in 18th century France, so when flour prices shot up in the late 1780s, people went hungry. The king and his nobles were rumoured to have secretly stockpiled flour, and it prompted people to grab weapons and look in vain for the hoards.



ABOLISH PRIVILEGE!

French nobility had a monopoly on positions of authority in the military and clergy. Like clergy, they were also exempt from tax. The revolutionaries specifically fought for the abolition of these unjust benefits.



EQUALITY & VOTING RIGHTS!

Inspired by the US, French rebels dreamed of equality before law. In August 1789, the National Assembly adopted a declaration that abolished privilege and extended voting rights for men.

The king is beheaded

21ST JANUARY, 1793
After a short trial, Louis XVI is found guilty of helping France's enemies. The king is executed by guillotine, and later that year (16th October) Marie-Antoinette is also beheaded. Their son Louis dies in prison, and daughter Marie is later exchanged for French prisoners in Austria.

Bloody Reign of Terror ends

1793-1794
Politician Maximilien de Robespierre takes control of the government. He sees enemies everywhere and tens of thousands end up on the guillotine. The bloodbath becomes too much for Robespierre's supporters, who guillotine the paranoid dictator.

When the king lost his head, those nearest ran to dip their handkerchiefs in the royal blood pooling under the guillotine's scaffold.

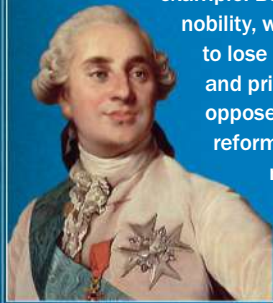
9 Who played the main roles?

During the revolution, France transformed itself into a political wasp nest with changing alliances and many different leaders. Six men played the crucial key roles.

LOUIS XVI

KING HAD THE BEST INTENTIONS

Unlike his predecessors, Louis XVI was a king willing to reform. During the 1770s he tried to remove taxes on peasants land, abolish serfdom and lower the price of grain, for example. But the nobility, who stood to lose money and privileges, opposed the reforms and made sure that they didn't happen.



COUNT OF MIRABEAU

COUNT WOULD PRESERVE MONARCHY

Despite his title, Mirabeau was elected to the Third Estate. Few could give a speech like the gifted Count, and his reputation grew among both politicians and ordinary citizens. During the drafting of a new constitution, the Count fought to preserve a constitutional monarchy, but his efforts were in vain. He died of illness in April 1791.



GEORGES-JACQUES DANTON

REBEL WAS KILLED BY HIS OWN

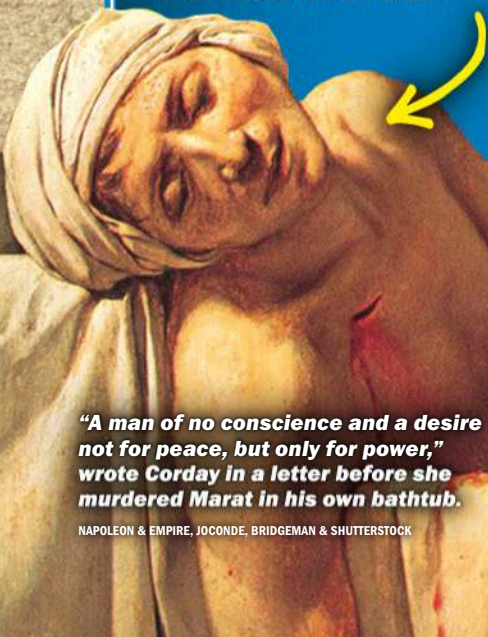
Danton used his position as a lawyer to fight for the rights of the weak, and often helped to organise riots in the streets of Paris. Over time, he became more moderate and tried to quell the mob from executing people without trial. But Danton's objections to Robespierre's Reign of Terror led to his own execution in April 1794.



JEAN-PAUL MARAT

FANATIC WAS MURDERED IN HIS BATH

Former court physician Marat used his periodical *Friend of the People* to urge readers to kill the enemies of the revolution. He drew up long lists of political opponents that he wanted beheading. In 1793, Marat was stabbed to death by Girondin supporter Charlotte Corday, who considered him a monster.



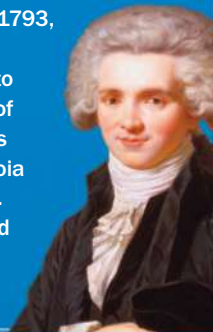
"A man of no conscience and a desire not for peace, but only for power," wrote Corday in a letter before she murdered Marat in his own bathtub.

NAPOLEON & EMPIRE, JOCONDE, BRIDGEMAN & SHUTTERSTOCK

MAXIMILIEN DE ROBESPIERRE

PARANOID TYRANT KILLED 17,000

The Republic was everything to lawyer Robespierre. Money had no hold on him, and his followers called him "The Incorruptible". In 1793, Robespierre was given a free rein to pursue enemies of the revolution. His increasing paranoia cost 17,000 lives. He was guillotined himself the following year.



PAUL BARRAS

GREEDY GENERAL OVERTHREW DICTATOR

During Robespierre's arrest, General Barras and his troops suppressed an armed uprising by Robespierre's supporters.

In return, Barras' was made one of five Directors who took control of the Republic. Using cunning and bribery he accumulated both power and wealth.



10

Which parties were fighting for power?

LEFT WING Radical/ Progressive

Jacobins fought for both the king's execution and the establishment of a strong, centralised republic. Its members met to debate policy in the St Jacques monastery, hence their name.

Montagnards were politically close to the Jacobins, and several members were both Jacobin and Montagnard. The latter, however, were more fanatical, and during debates in parliament, they encouraged the audience in the gallery to shout threats to intimidate their political opponents.

Girondines were eloquent intellectuals who wanted a decentralised republic where everyone was equal before the law. They fought against the king's execution and became the strongest opponents of the Jacobins. In 1793, the group's leaders were purged by order from Robespierre.

*In 1792, France established a new parliament, the **National Convention**, which saw fierce debates rage between deeply divided politicians.*

RIGHT WING Moderate/ Conservative

The Feuillants Club were originally part of the Jacobin faction, but split when the Jacobins moved to overthrow the king and establish a full republic. The Feuillants also opposed the war with Prussia and Austria. When the monarchy was abolished in 1792, the group dissolved and several of its members were guillotined.

Le Marais (The Marsh) – the majority of delegates didn't belong to either political wing. Many voted on a case-by-case basis, with no grouping or common political position. The soft approach of this centrist group led to the derogatory nickname "Crapaud" (Toad).

AUGUSTIN CHALLAMEL

11

What was the revolution like outside Paris?

Tax collection stops

Rouen municipal offices, which includes tax collection, are taken by force in summer of 1789.

Fanatics launch witch hunts

Nantes is one of the first to join the revolution. In the winter of 1793-94, up to 4,000 people are drowned because they're suspected of not supporting the revolution.

Girondines is formed

Members of the Third Estate take over the city of Bordeaux and found the political club Girondines. The name originates from the Gironde area in which Bordeaux is situated.

Farmers refuse to pay grain tax

In August 1789, farmers and workers in Castres rebel against the tax on grain. It's a tax that's paid to private tax collectors.

The bureaucracy breaks down

The municipal administration in Lille falls apart when citizens throw the royal officials on the street.

Military officers are expelled

As is the case in other towns in the area, officers are expelled from the Thionville garrison in July 1789. It's subsequently looted for weapons.

Castles are burned

In the summer of 1789, monasteries in Alsace are plundered and burned along with villas and castles owned by the wealthy and nobility.

Workers rebel

In June 1789, workers in Lyon rebel against harsh taxes. Many hope that the National Assembly will remove – among other things – exemption from tax for nobles.

Volunteers sing anthem

Workers and citizens in Marseille are enthusiastic supporters of the revolution. Around 500 volunteers travel to Paris in 1792 to defend the new government. As they march they sing the Marseillaise, which becomes France's new national anthem.

BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

12 How many people were executed on the guillotine?

Until 1789, it was a privilege of nobility to be executed through beheading, but Doctor Guillotin would change this. The doctor proposed using a machine that could kill everyone in the same efficient way, regardless of their position. In addition, the killing apparatus was considered as swift and humane as possible.

“With my machine, I cut off your head in the twinkling of an eye, and you never feel it!”, Dr Guillotin promised when he presented his idea to the French legislature in 1789, who enthusiastically adopted it.

The doctor was not an advocate of the death penalty, although he acknowledged that execution was a deterrent to both criminals and counter-revolutionaries. His invention became widely used, particularly during

Robespierre's Reign of Terror in 1793-4 when a portable guillotine accompanied mobile courts around France as they tried and convicted suspected enemies of the revolution.

Extra weight promised a clean cut

The blade weighed approximately 30 kg. When released, its weight helped provide more force to ensure a clean and fast cut.



ON A BUSY DAY, EXECUTIONERS WERE ABLE TO TAKE 60 HEADS IN A ROW.

Blade was tested on animals

The blade's oblique angle provided a better cut than a straight blade. Its ideal height, shape and weight was found by experimenting on sheep and calves.

A trigger set the blade in motion

By pressing the wooden handle at the bottom, the executioner triggered the blade. It conserved his strength from swinging an axe.



AN EYEWITNESS CLAIMED THAT LOUIS XVI'S THICK NECK REQUIRED TWO CUTS.

The stretcher was raised up

The stretcher stood upright, to which the condemned man was strapped with leather belts. Then the stretcher placed down, and the condemned moved forward so his head lay between the frame's two posts.

Summer 1794 was particularly bloody. Entire families – including children – died under the guillotine's blade.

GETTY IMAGES, AKG, SHUTTERSTOCK

A popular spectacle

Thousands followed the executions that took place on a platform so everyone could see. Their number included tricoteuse, women who knitted and chatted while watching the spectacle.



Death should be quick

Doctor Joseph Ignace Guillotin (1738-1814) did not design the guillotine himself, but he devised a design so that an execution took place quickly, humanly and in accordance with the revolutionary ideal about equality before the law.



THE QUICKEST TIME RECORDED FROM BEING TAKEN FROM PRISON TO BEHEADING WAS TWO MINUTES.

Frame ensured consistent drop

On the inside of the posts was a groove, which ensured that the blade fell evenly and stably. It could be raised again by pulling a rope.

The condemned were locked in place

To prevent the condemned man from pulling his head back, his neck was locked between two plates.

The head ended up in a basket

As soon as the neck was cut, the head fell into a basket of wicker or leather. Often the executioner picked up his head and held it forward to the jubilant audience. Some spectators made it a sport to dip their handkerchiefs in the blood of the deceased.



UP TO 40,000 PEOPLE WERE EXECUTED BY GUILLOTINE FROM 1792 TO 1796.

Each month lasted 30 days, spread over three weeks of 10 days.

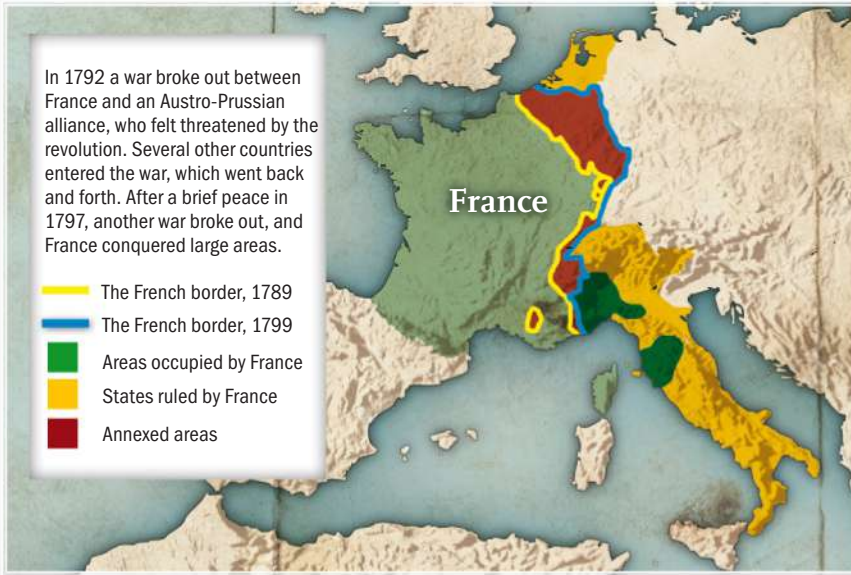
BRIDGEMAN



13 How did France fare during its Revolutionary Wars?

In 1792 a war broke out between France and an Austro-Prussian alliance, who felt threatened by the revolution. Several other countries entered the war, which went back and forth. After a brief peace in 1797, another war broke out, and France conquered large areas.

- The French border, 1789
- The French border, 1799
- Areas occupied by France
- States ruled by France
- Annexed areas



14 Why was a new calendar brought in?

In 1793 France adopted a new Republican calendar, which erased all Catholic holidays and removed Sunday, when the French usually went to the fair.

15 How did the revolution end?

In July 1794, the Thermidorians put an end to Robespierre's bloody Reign of Terror. The group set up a new government known as the Directorate, which Paul Barras soon dominated as main ruler. Support was great in the beginning, but the Directorate failed to lower the price of bread and remedy widespread famine. Simmering dissent exploded into anger as corruption continued to increase – for example, officials could grow wealthy through bribing politicians to give them a monopoly on selling bread at inflated prices.

In November 1799, a coup d'état led by General Napoleon Bonaparte

removed the unpopular Barras from power with little resistance. France formed a new government called The Consulate consisting of three consuls with Napoleon as the first consul.

Napoleon reformed the tax system to take control and fill the treasury once more. Schools were also established throughout France for all boys, regardless of class, and the price of food stabilised through importing grain from Northern Italy. The French people were grateful for this period of peace and stability, and 99 per cent voted in favour of making the former general Emperor of the French in a referendum.



BRIDGEMAN

In 1804 Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor over France.

16 WHAT DID THE PEOPLE GET FROM REVOLUTION?

In August 1789, the National Assembly adopted new rights for all French citizens:

- 1** Everyone is born free and equal.
- 2** Everyone has the right to freedom without oppression.
- 3** Absolute power lies with the people.
- 4** Everyone has a right to choose their religion.
- 5** Freedom of expression: writing, speaking and printing.
- 6** People are innocent until proven guilty.
- 7** Taxation is determined by income and wealth, so the rich pay most.
- 8** Vote for men.
- 9** Property shall be inviolable.

Louis XVI's

For two years, the French King has been under house arrest in Paris. Now he was out he wants to claim back the throne. Louis' escape is organised by a Swedish Count, who is Queen Marie-Antoinette's lover.

After 24 hours on the run, the French royal family was captured in the village of Varennes. Louis XVI was disguised as a butler and the prince wore a dress.

BILDARCHIV PREUSSISCHER KULTURBESITZ

FRANCE/1789

Revolution years begin. The people want the authorities to take notice – the poor are angry over food prices, and the nobility is fighting for its privileges. Louis XVI is paralysed and also afraid of bloodshed and civil war. When the National Assembly takes power, he does not resist them.



BY SVANTE KARLSSON OG TORSTEN WEPER

At seven in the morning, the butler heads to wake Louis XVI. The French king is in his bed. But when the butler pulls back the drapes, the king is gone.

The butler runs into six-year-old Crown Prince Louis Charles' room. He's not there either. The ladies go to awaken Queen Marie-Antoinette. Her bed is empty too.

"They are gone! They're gone!" echo the cries from the Tuileries Palace in

central Paris. For two years, the palace has served as the royal family's involuntary residence – the king has been living under house arrest, deprived of his absolute power. Instead, he simply signed whatever legislation the country's new rulers in the National Assembly put in front of him.

But now Louis has gone – fled with the queen and her children, Princess Marie Thérèse and Crown Prince Louis Charles. Bells begin to chime across the

failed escape



LOUIS CHARLES

MARIE THÉRÈSE

MARIE-ANTOINETTE

LOUIS XVI



THE LOVER

COUNT AXEL VON FERSEN, worshipped the Queen of France.



THE QUEEN

MARIE-ANTOINETTE is despised by the people, Fersen is one of her few friends.



THE KING

LOUIS XVI is depressed and paralysed to inaction.

city, and an excited mass of people gather in front of the palace shouting insults against the king. At 11 o'clock, the National Assembly dispatch agents to track down the royal refugees.

At the same time the royal family sit in a fine coach almost 100 kilometres from Paris. Their spirits are high.

"It seems to me that everything is going well. If they were going to stop us, it would have happened already", says the queen, who is disguised as a

maid. They are still far from their destination – the royalist garrison town of Montmédy near the border of the Austrian Low Countries (present-day Belgium) – but Swedish Count Fersen's escape plan appears to be a success.

The enamoured Count

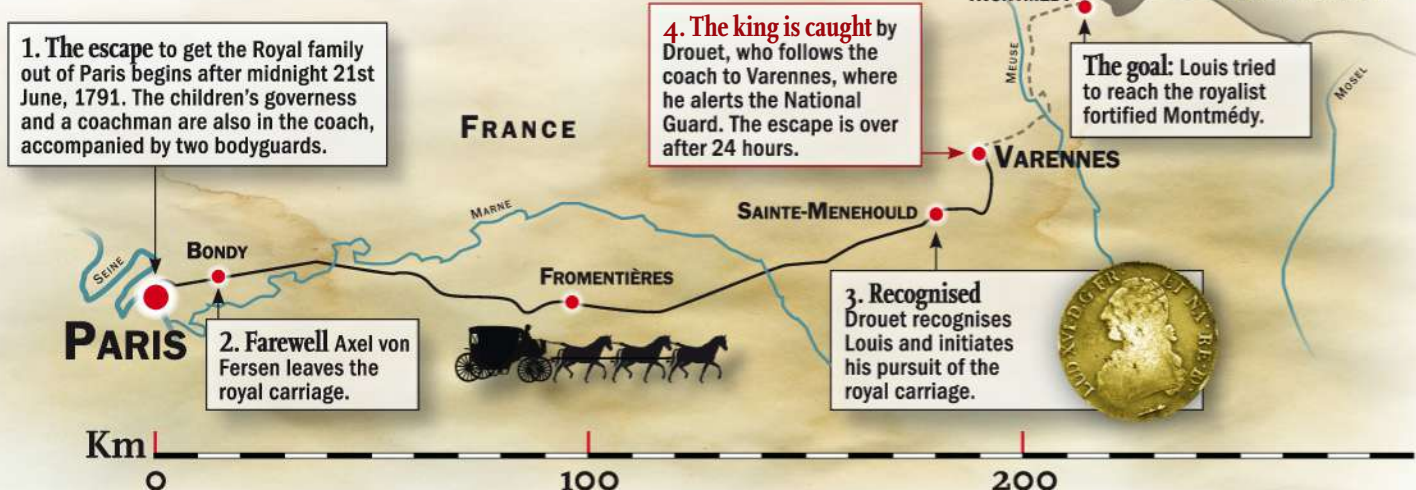
Count Alex von Fersen, once known as Europe's most beautiful man, is a ladies' man with countless conquests to his name. But in 1783, when he meets

Marie-Antoinette during a trip to Paris, he is utterly smitten. And after she and the king are forced to stay in the Tuileries Palace, he does not miss an opportunity to sneak into the well-guarded palace to help keep up the spirits of the unfortunate queen, who is despised throughout France.

"She is an angel of goodness, heroic in all her sensitivity. Never have I been so loved", he writes in a letter to his sister, Sophie of Sweden. ►

The escape was almost a success

Although the palace was teeming with spies and the escape required a myriad of helpers, Count Fersen managed to keep the plan secret. It ended in failure due to delay in Paris and a lack of military escorts.



Along with the royal couple, Fersen prepares an escape plan to bring Louis to safety in Montmédy. Here, the king plans to gather an army and then crush the revolutionaries in Paris.

First, Fersen buys a comfortable "Berline" carriage for six people. Officially, a certain "Baroness de Korff" is behind the purchase. Reportedly, she will use the coach for a trip to Russia.

Historians think it is plausible. At this time, aristocrats liked to take long trips through Europe. So Fersen can now start on the other preparations: the horses will need to be changed several

times throughout the journey to Montmédy. He makes arrangements with 12 postal depots along the escape route. On the way, Louis will be escorted by royalist soldiers who must be instructed on both the route and what needs doing.

Departure at midnight

All preparations are made in secret, as the revolutionaries have placed spies among the 100 courtiers in the Tuileries Palace. Several times, the indecisive king postpones the escape, and each time, the many postal depots

and escorts need informing of the change of plans. Finally, the date been fixed for his rescue: the night of 21st June, 1791.

Shortly before midnight, the queen awakens her two children. The Crown Prince will be very disappointed when he discovers that he has to wear women's clothes. Shortly after, Axel von Fersen arrives at the palace dressed as a coachman. He leads the children and their governess to his own carriage.

The children's governess will play the role of Baroness de Korff, while the king has the role of her butler. Wearing a green coat, he sneaks his way through the dark palace. On the ground floor, he meets two trusted guards who have been hiding in a closet. They follow the king to Fersen's carriage, where the king's sister Élisabeth is waiting.

Marie-Antoinette is last to leave the chambers when she hears footsteps. She hides and waits until it becomes quiet again. Finally, she finds a guard who leads her from the palace.

After a one-hour delay, all six refugees are together. Fersen drives his carriage out of town to where the Berline is hidden. Unseen, they all get into it.

At the postal depot, about 20 kilometres outside Paris, they change horses for the first time. Here, Fersen – much against his will – is forced to say goodbye to the queen. He would like to

HISTOIRE-IMAGE



After escaping, Louis and Marie-Antoinette are returned to the Tuileries Palace in Paris. During the four-day trip, angry subjects pelt them and shower them with insults.

have accompanied the carriage all the way, but it is for the king's honour: to be rescued by the man known as Marie-Antoinette's lover would be insulting.

"Goodbye, Madame de Korff", Fersen shouts demonstratively, so everyone at the postal depot can hear him.

During the night he slips across the border, while the royal carriage finds itself in big trouble. On the dark roads, the horses stumble many times, so their harnesses break. They need to be mended before they can continue. The delay means that the soldiers, who are waiting to escort the king and his party, believe that the escape has been postponed once again. In order not to arouse unnecessary attention, they withdraw so they are ready for the next attempt and without protection, Louis continues towards disaster.

The king is recognised

In several places the distinguished coach rouses interest, but the farther from Paris, it gets, the journey to take Louis to safety becomes more relaxed. In Fromentieres, he even starts talking to some farmers. The others in the carriage are beside themselves with concern, but king simply says:

"Oh, it does not mean that much. We are out of danger now".

At eight o'clock they reach Sainte-Menehould. The postmaster, Jean Baptiste Drouet, is an ardent revolutionary. He thinks that there is something familiar about the butler in the carriage – the fleshy face, the heavy chin and big nose. The king's profile is reproduced on French coins and Drouet suspects that the butler is Louis XVI. Shortly after, when a courier from Paris brings news of the king's escape, Drouet starts his pursuit.

At midnight, the carriage reaches the village of Varennes. They search in vain for the fresh horses and troops, which should be ready. The king's companions knock on the houses to ask. No one is interested in helping them.

Meanwhile, Drouet also reaches Varennes. He finds the local branch of the National Guard, and the bells ring out over the city.

Soon after, the king's carriage is stopped and the passengers brought to a local grocer's home. An old man, who once saw the king at Versailles, is brought in to identify Louis. When the old man sees the butler, he falls to his

knees and exclaims: "Oh, my lord the King!" The Baroness de von Korff's trip to Russia is exposed.

"Excellent", said the king, "I really am your King".

Everyone in house is exalted to have such a distinguished guest – he is, after all, "the King of God's grace". If Louis XVI had been a man of action, he might have saved the situation, if only he had the right words. But the king is as always paralysed. He does nothing!

The people of Varennes are polite and cautious, because nobody knows the right thing to do in these days when the National Assembly change the rules daily, but when the day dawns, all kindness disappears. Troops from the National Guard force the King back towards Paris – the humiliating trip takes four days and people line the road hurling insults at the royal family.

Fersen's broken heart

After the failed escape, Marie-Antoinette smuggles a letter to Axel von Fersen:

"I've not had the opportunity to tell you that I love you", wrote the queen and asks for an address that she can write to. If she cannot keep in touch, she cannot live, she explains.

Fersen launches intensive diplomatic negotiations with the European powers. But all his efforts are in vain; no one will risk a thing for the French royal couple.

Fersen manages to sneak into the Tuileries Palace a few times, but he has no more opportunities to instigate a further rescue attempt. In January 1793, the National Assembly decide that the king will die on the guillotine. Ten months after, the queen dies.

The news of her death throws Axel von Fersen into deep despair.

"I liked her so much that I would have given a thousand lives, yet she is no more: my pain is indescribable", Fersen writes to his sister.

Feelings between the Queen and Count Fersen could not be mistaken. Yet historians continue to discuss the nature of their relationship and whether or not it had a sexual dimension. Important evidence that could shed light on the question has been destroyed. ■

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Von Fersen was kicked to death

In the years after Marie-Antoinette's death, Fersen became Earl Marshall of Sweden, but he never got over the queen's death – and 17 years after, his death was almost as tragic as hers.

On 28 May, 1810, Swedish Crown Prince Charles August had a stroke. Rumours about his sudden death were rife; the most persistent claimed that Count Fersen had poisoned the prince. The people hated him and when Fersen drove into Stockholm with the funeral procession on 20th June, 1810, the streets swarmed with drunks who threw stones and coins at the windows of Fersen's coach, shattering them, and when he reached Gamla Stan, they started throwing stones at him.

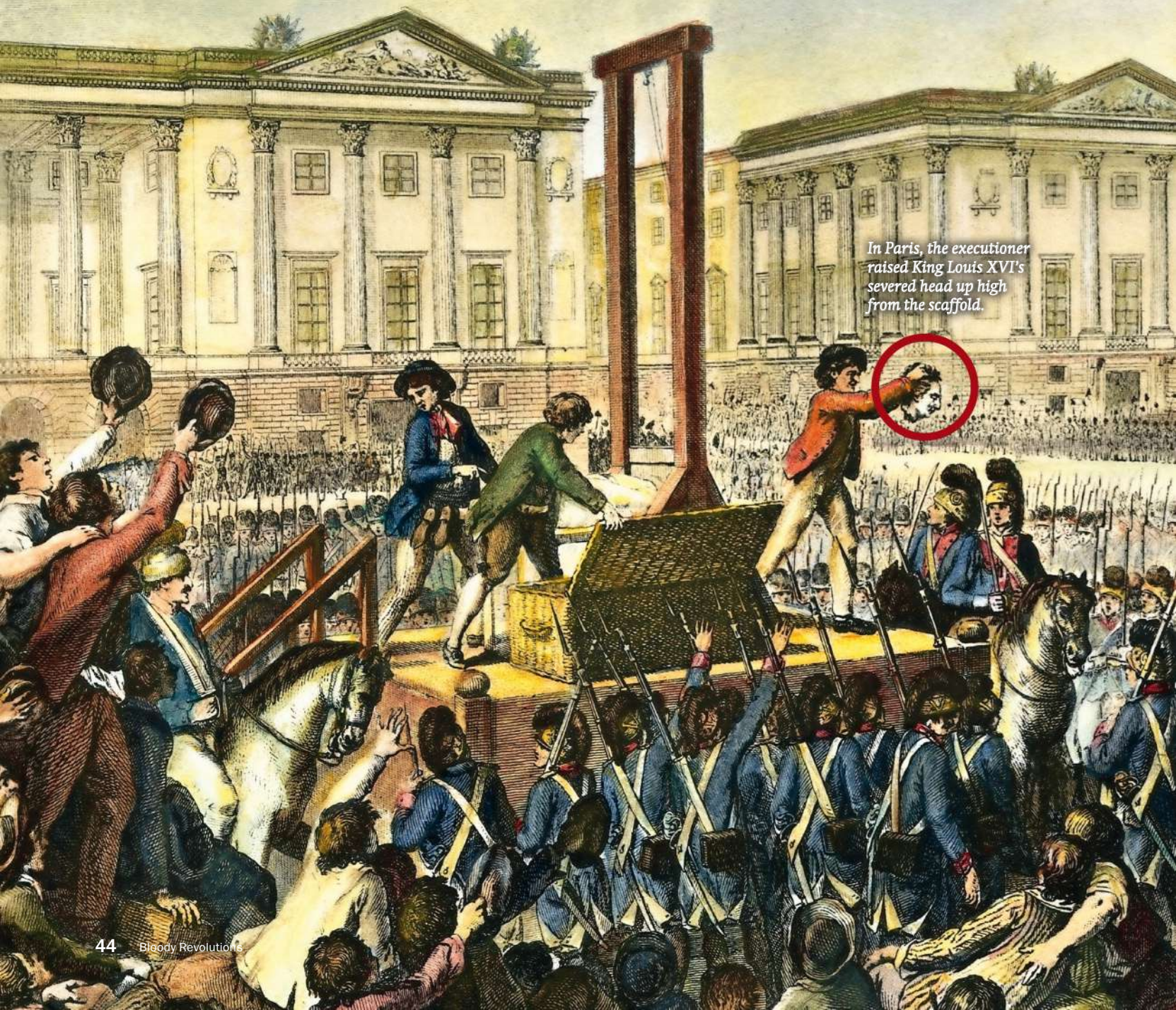
Fersen begged for help from a battalion from the Swedish Life Guards, but they would not help – even when the mob got hold of him and kicked him to death.

The cruel rumour, which cost Fersen his life, was probably an offshoot of a military coup against Gustav Adolf IV. The new king, Charles XIII, had no heirs, creating a struggle for succession in which Fersen was the victim of an intrigue. His body was left in the gutter.

Charles August was born a Danish prince. When he became Sweden's Crown Prince it created a rift.



People taste king's blood



In Paris, the executioner raised King Louis XVI's severed head up high from the scaffold.

Even in the last few hours of his life, France's deposed King Louis XVI expects to be able to set the rules for his own execution. But neither the legislature nor the people have anything left to offer him.

BETTMANN/CORBIS/POLFO



BY PETRINE ELGAARD

The sound of drums and trumpets announces that King Louis XVI has left his chamber and is in the tower in the medieval castle Le Temple. Meanwhile in Paris, the 12-year-old crown prince Louis Charles lies in the queen's room, weeping in his mother's arms. Suddenly, he breaks free and races through the adjoining room, hoping to slip out in the hallway. An officer stops the young Louis Charles and asks him where he is going.

"I shall speak to the people", cries the boy, "and ask them not to kill my father".

The officer orders the boy back to his mother Queen Marie-Antoinette immediately. The Crown Prince has no power to dispute the king's fate in the newly created Republic of France.

At a little after nine in the morning on 21st January, 1793, the gates of Le Temple open and a green wagon drives out. It is escorted by several hundred men on horseback. The air is chilly, and the horses' hooves sink into the deep snow on the streets. In the covered wagon is France's deposed and condemned King Louis XVI, he can see the carriage move away from the massive medieval castle, which has been his prison for almost six months. The king is calm and silent. He knows it is only a matter of hours before he dies.

39-year-old Louis XVI will leave behind his wife, Queen Marie-Antoinette, and their two children Louis Charles and Marie-Thérèse, aged 12 and 14 years respectively. The evening before, he had been allowed to see his family one last time. They all knew that he would be beheaded, and their deplorable cries could be heard on the stairs through the palace's massive doors after they left him.

Now the king is sat in the coach with Irishman Henry Edgeworth, who had grown up in France when his father converted to Catholicism. He was a friend of the royal family and the king wants Edgeworth to accompany him on his last trip through Paris.

The priest passes over his prayer book to the king, who takes it with grateful hands. Louis XVI asks his confessor to identify the passages that are most appropriate for his situation. Together they begin to pray. The king remains calm, his thoughtful face shows a contrast to the reputation he has as a shallow and insecure person who couldn't handle resistance.

FROM KING TO DOOMED MAN

Louis XVI's reign was plagued by severe economic problems and a growing dissatisfaction with the monarchy. France was on the verge of national bankruptcy, and it particularly affected the people at grass roots level. Bread prices rose sharply, and from 1789 there were riots in the Paris streets. The bloody part of the revolution began on



France's King Louis XVI defended himself against accusations of treason in parliament.

14th July, 1789, when the townspeople stormed the hated Bastille prison to access the huge arms and gunpowder store. Almost three months later, angry citizens forced the royal family from its home in the magnificent Palace of Versailles. The rebellion against the king's divine autocracy was a hard blow for Louis XVI, who found himself under house arrest in the Palace Tuileries in Paris with his family and entire court.

Over the next two years, a kind of parliament was set up by the French people, the National Assembly, to steer France forward, but the king vetoed new laws and the people became more discontent.

In a desperate hope to regain the throne and with help from abroad, Louis fled with his family in the middle of the night on 20th June, 1791, escaping his house arrest, but 24 hours later they were caught and sent back towards Paris. Louis XVI was arrested and was stripped of all his titles when it became clear that he had allied with France's ►



Queen Marie-Antoinette had a reputation for being frivolous with many lovers.



Louis XVI was sentenced to death for treason when he supported the enemy, Austria.

POLFO

King's head found in collector's loft

In 2008 a mummified head was found in a collector's loft. He had bought it in 1955, and the seller said that it belonged to the French King Henry IV, who was killed in 1610. In 2010, researchers confirmed that the rumour was true. Carbon-dating fitted the time, and 29 other characteristics – including a broken nose, a large scar and a fractured jaw after an attempted murder – were consistent with what was known about Henry IV.



AFP/SCANPIX

enemy, Austria. Then, the National Assembly proclaimed France's first Republic and their parliament became the National Convention.

The king was put on trial in front of the Convention and was unanimously found guilty of treason. When its members voted on his sentence, a single casting vote – out of 721 votes – made it 361 for the death penalty. On the same day as sentencing, 20th January, 1793, 15 men from the government met up in Louis XVI's room in Le Temple. With a trembling voice a secretary read the judgment on four counts for the deposed king. Louis XVI heard nothing – except for two words. The king smiled indignantly as

the secretary pronounced the word “conspiracy” against the country's freedom and his people's safety. And then the “death penalty” was mentioned, he glanced at the Assembly, which according to his faithful servant, Jean-Baptiste Cléréc, revealed that he neither condemned them or feared death, for he had a clear conscience.

The king even passed a document to the 15 men with his wishes. He asked the National Convention for permission to choose his own confessor before his death, and that this person should not be afraid to show him compassion. In addition, he asked the government to take care of his family and servants. Finally, he

wanted to wait for three days until his sentence was carried out.

At six o'clock, the National Convention answered. The French people's representatives promised that he could see a priest of his choice, that as a righteous nation they would take care of his family's future, and that his servants would get due compensation. But members of parliament would not agree to postpone his execution. He was to be executed according to plan the following day, 21st January, 1793.

PEOPLE WOULD TAKE REVENGE

The king's execution proved a popular draw, and Paris' streets were packed with people who wanted to see the king die.

“The streets were filled with people, all armed: some with spears, others with firearms. The carriage was surrounded by troops made up of the most desperate Parisians”, wrote the priest Henry Edgeworth, describing the scene.

Almost all of Paris' armed forces, totalling around 130,000 men, stood along the streets, while in front of the horses were soldiers with drums, so any noise or protest in support of the king could be camouflaged. But the many spectators and snow hampered the coach's journey and the route of almost five kilometres took an hour to complete.

Louis had become a symbol of the arrogance and opulence that the monarchy represented for most Frenchmen. In an attempt to hold on to the last rites of the royal autocracy the court continued to organise large dinners with theatre trips and dances, as long as their captivity allowed. Even though Louis

“A moment later the guillotine blade struck and cut through his neck, and Louis XVI's head was severed with a single blow”



Louis XVI would not put up with his wrists being bound before his execution. But the executioner was indifferent and tied his hands anyway.

THE GRANGER COLLECTION/POLFO

1789

France's "Third Estate" creates the National Assembly, which develops a new constitution.

1791

France becomes a constitutional monarchy. The king is, however, given a veto.

HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES



1792

Revolutionary forces imprison the king when it becomes clear he is in league with Austria.

1793

France's new Legislative Assembly judges Louis XVI guilty of treason.

1793

A huge escort follows the King to the scaffold in Paris, where the guillotine chops off his head.



WIKIMEDIA



Louis XVI was arrested on suspicion of treason and imprisoned in the castle Le Temple.

was not a big entertainer he was strongly attached to the magnificent living and the French royal family's reputation. But this undisguised show of wealth openly provoked the impoverished population. As a precaution, the king's carriage was covered when he was taken to the scaffold. The king had to be in one piece when he reached the guillotine.

THE EXECUTIONER WAITED

The coach stopped near the scaffold. Around the square people had guns, and a mob proceeded as far as the eye could see, pressing closer and closer to the guillotine. As Louis XVI came from the coach, the three executioners surrounded him. They reached out to take his clothes, so the guillotine blade would pass easily. But Louis pushed them away arrogantly and loosened the neck of his shirt. When he had opened his shirt, the torturers grabbed his wrists.

"What are you trying to do?" Louis exclaimed and pulled his hands away so they couldn't restrain him.

"To bind you", came the reply.

"I will never allow it", was the king's angry retort.

But Louis XVI no longer held any power over his subjects, and he had to submit to having his wrists bound behind his back. With bare neck and tied hands Louis began to move slowly up the scaffold's steep staircase. He was a rotund man, who was not accustomed to moving much, and found himself having to rely on the priest Edgeworth for support.

"With the slowness of his movements, I feared that his courage might fail. Great was my surprise when at the last moment he suddenly let go of my arm and I saw him

cross the scaffold with a firm footing", recalled Edgeworth later.

KING'S HEAD WAS DISPLAYED

Louis XVI moved toward the people to speak one last time. The Army Commander had ordered a band of drummers, who stood at the scaffold, to play a drum roll. But the king, who looked over the armed crowd, raised his voice till they were silent. How many drums stopped playing and how many Frenchmen heard Louis XVI's last speech is uncertain. It is also not known exactly what his words were. The words Henry Edgeworth recorded were:

"I die innocent of all the crimes laid to my charge; I pardon those who have occasioned my death; and I pray to God that the blood you are going to shed may never be visited on France".

Louis XVI was still speaking when, with a wild cry, the commander ordered the drummers to strike again. The executioners seized the king and led him to the guillotine. His neck was too thick to fit properly into the groove under the guillotine's blade, the executioners promptly manhandled the king's neck, then blood flowed as they closed the blocks of wood around his neck. A moment later the blade dropped, and Louis XVI's head was severed with a single cut. An executioner grabbed the

severed head and lifted it to show the masses as he walked around the scaffold. At first the people were quiet, but then cries broke out:

"Long live the Republic!"

More and more people shouted until thousands had repeated the cry, and many had thrown their hats towards the sky.

PEOPLE TASTED BLOOD

Those standing by the scaffold were so close they could almost taste the king's blood.

"It tastes pretty good", said one.

"No, that's really awfully salty", exclaimed others.

Some people had heard that Marie-Antoinette would wash her hands in French blood after the revolution, so they rubbed their hands in the king's blood as revenge. The crowd dipped handkerchiefs and spears in the king's blood that had run down into a trough under the guillotine. It was one of the executioners' jobs to fill a bucket with hot liquid, so it was easier to dip their hands, handkerchiefs and spears in it.

King Louis XVI's body was taken to a local cemetery and dumped in an unmarked grave. His death still stands as a symbol of the country's transition from Monarchy to Republic. Nine months later, Queen Marie Antoinette was also found guilty of treason and beheaded. ■

The guillotine gave equality before the law

In 1792, Louis XVI signed a law that ordered all those sentenced to death be executed on the guillotine. Now nobles were no longer killed by sword, and citizens on the gallows. All were equal at the moment of death.

- A** The frame was made of oak and painted red, so the blood spots were not seen on the wood.
- B** The blade was made of steel and attached with three screws on a heavy block of wood in the frame.
- C** With a single lever the executioner could trigger the guillotine's mechanical blade.
- D** When the rope was released from the brass harness, the upper wooden bar of the blade dropped.
- E** The condemned man's head was placed between two pieces of wood, so that he or she could not move on it while the blade flashed against their neck. In this way, the execution was over in an instant.



*False sex allegations trap
the Queen of France:*

Marie-Antoinette loses her head

As France's reign of terror progressed, Marie-Antoinette was charged with incest and treason. She had nothing more to lose: the French people hated her, her children were forcibly removed, and the guillotine had taken her husband. As she was led to the scaffold, she only had her dignity left.





Her dresses were gone, and her hair cut short, but Marie-Antoinette towered like a queen on the way to her death.

CORBIS/POLFO

QUICK OVERVIEW

Background: the people considered the Austrian Marie-Antoinette, wife of France's King Louis XVI, to be a pleasure-seeking harlot.

Outcome: when the French Revolution broke out, a large part of the people's anger was directed against the queen. Many believed she was the brains behind the king's resistance to new reforms.

Consequences: the royal family was thrown into prison, and the bloodthirsty revolutionaries sent Louis to the guillotine. Then it was the turn of Marie-Antoinette, who was convicted on false evidence.



BY STINE OVERBYE

Revolution never sleeps – and at the Tuileries Palace in Paris it didn't even shut an eye on the stifling hot summer night between 9th and 10th August, 1792. The battle between the monarchy and the revolutionary was entering its final, decisive stages, and to Queen Marie-Antoinette's regret, her husband, Louis the XVI had already been defeated.

It was true that the king had recently prepared to resist and had ordered his Swiss guard to fight to the last drop of blood. But as the drumming approached through the Parisian night, the thought of failure had discouraged him. He wandered helplessly through his chambers, unable to decide whether or not to fight against the enraged mob that headed his way.

The king's wig was a mess, his purple clothes wrinkled and sagging around his belly. The sight of the awkward and weak man was hard for Marie-Antoinette to cope with. In anger, she tearfully begged him to speak to his troops and inspire them with some fighting spirit – for the sake of the ancient French monarchy and for the couple's two children. But the result was pitiful:

"They say they are coming. We will defend ourselves valiantly, right?" Louis implored, deathly pale.

"Long live the King", was the hesitant response from some of the red-clad Swiss. But many, including the Parisian National Guard who participated in the defence of the Tuileries, shouted scornfully at the king.

From a window, Marie-Antoinette witnessed the hopeless spectacle, and when her deeply humiliated husband pulled back to the royal apartments, she felt momentarily discouraged.

"It is no use. He has done more harm than good", the queen said to her chamber maid.

At seven o'clock in the morning, the palace was surrounded by a crowd several thousand strong, armed with muskets, lances, cutlasses and full of bloodlust.

Inside, Louis XVI's advisor implored the royal family to flee, while there was still time.

"Only the National Assembly can make your majesty be safe", he said. But Marie-Antoinette intervened. She ►

refused to give up – this might be the last, decisive battle for the monarchy’s future.

“We have enough troops to defend ourselves, and now is the right moment to make it clear who should have the power, the king or the rebels”, declared the queen. The advisor continued his line and explained that all of Paris was up in arms.

“If you stay here, there is a risk for both your husband, your own and your children’s lives”, he warned. King Louis XVI sat heavily in his chair and let his eyes wander from the insistent adviser to his wife, whose cheeks and neck flared fiery red with excitement. The minutes went by in resounding silence, but then Louis finally made a decision.

“Let’s go”, he sighed. Marie-Antoinette obeyed him and with their two children in hand, she reluctantly followed the king who led the family out and away from the palace.

“We’ll be back soon”, she said as she bade farewell to the servants and courtiers. But she had set foot in the palace for the last time.

Teenage pair are mismatched spouses

The royal family only had to take 200 steps from the Tuileries through the palace gardens to the National Assembly, but Marie-Antoinette was not happy about the getaway, a trip that took her away from her extravagant life as the wife of France’s absolute master.

She had become French in May 1770 when she arrived from her native Austria, and was married to Prince Louis, heir to Europe’s most prestigious throne. They were both

teenagers – she was 14 years old, and he was only one year older – but they only had blue blood in common. While Louis was a plump, aloof, indecisive and serious loner, his beautiful bride was full of carefree energy.

Marie-Antoinette had enjoyed an unusually free childhood at the court in Vienna, where she learned to love banquets, wild entertainment and a cheerful life. She found none of these at the French royal Palace of Versailles, 20 kilometres from Paris. Here every day was full of rituals with everything regulated by rigid etiquette.

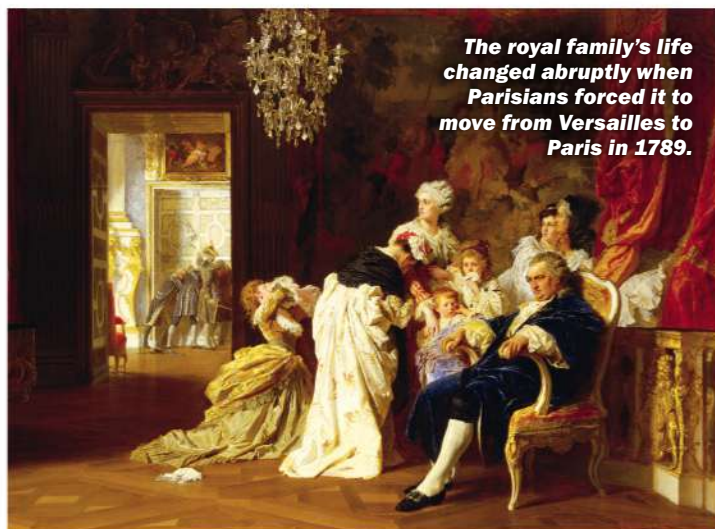
At every opportunity, Marie-Antoinette fled from the fossilised royal residence to Paris, where she went to the theatre and the opera wearing the day’s most modern outfits. But it had its price as the conservative court turned their noses up at the young Austrian’s playfulness – and following recent events, she was also fiercely unpopular among the French people.

“Why do they hate me? What have I done to them?” She asked, puzzled. Otherwise, Marie-Antoinette did everything she could to consider France’s ordinary citizens, when her exalted life brought her close to them. For instance, unlike the rest of the court, she never rode through the peasants’ wheat fields and trampled grain when she was hunting.

This kind of respect went unnoticed, and instead satirical pamphlets portrayed Marie-Antoinette as a promiscuous slut who had numerous affairs with both men and women. But what attracted most gossip were her expensive habits. For example, after she became Queen of France in 1774, she had the pretty little village of Le Hameau built for her in the park at Versailles. It was picture-postcard perfect with frolicking white lambs and the cleanest cows in a picturesque landscape, where small farms, a mill and a dairy completed picture of a true village idyll. Even loyal courtiers found it inappropriate.

“A lot of money has been spent on giving the Queen’s ‘hameau’ the aspect of poverty. By spending a little more, Her Majesty would have been able to improve the conditions of those who are really poor within a radius of twenty miles or so”, complained the Marquis of Bombelles.

In the second half of the 1700s, the French economy had been deteriorating, and in the middle of the 1780s



The royal family's life changed abruptly when Parisians forced it to move from Versailles to Paris in 1789.

CORBIS/POURTO

Fraudulent affair did queen no good at all

In 1785, Marie-Antoinette was involuntary party to a scam that made her more unpopular than ever among her subjects.

Fraudster Jeanne de la Motte persuaded a cardinal to buy a priceless diamond necklace for the queen, soon after she sold the 647 diamonds individually.

When the cardinal did not pay his instalments for the jewellery, they sent the bill to Marie-Antoinette, who refused to pay. The

matter went to court and Jeanne de la Motte was sentenced to flogging, and imprisonment, but few Frenchmen believed in Marie-Antoinette’s innocence in the scandal.

The necklace that harmed the queen's reputation has since been reconstructed.

SCALA ARCHIVES



the State was on the verge of bankruptcy. Lost wars, lost colonies and inept administration had drained the treasury, and although Marie-Antoinette reined in her spending and dressed more humbly, she had become a symbol of the kingdom's downfall.

The crisis worsened, and by 1789 many French people were in such deep poverty that they could not afford a simple meal. The peoples' pent-up anger was directed at the court in its gilded isolation, and in October, Parisians marched to Versailles to demand bread. From that moment, the nascent revolution endangered not just the French Monarchy, but the royal family's very survival.

Marie-Antoinette fights on

When the hungry Parisians arrived at Versailles, they were not content to simply complain about their situation. The thousands-strong throng also forced the royal family back to Paris. For the foreseeable future, Louis XVI stayed among his subjects in the capital.

The Tuileries Palace in Paris had been empty for over 100 years, but was quickly turned into a home for the royal family, where they could be watched around the clock. In reality, Louis, Marie-Antoinette, and their two children were now the revolutionaries' prisoners, and the queen feared for their future.

"They watch over us like criminals, and this coercion is almost unbearable", she wrote in a letter to a friend. "It is terrible to be constantly afraid that something will happen to loved ones, and we cannot approach the window without being showered with insults. When we walk with the children, we are yelled and screamed at".

Louis XVI imagined that the revolution would quickly run its course, but that didn't happen. On the contrary, his power was undermined and chaos spread across France. Marie-Antoinette put pressure on her husband to act and to restore authority, before it was too late.

At the Queen's request Louis approached several European princes for help, and she also wrote to her brother, the Holy Roman Emperor Leopold II, to get him to assemble his army at the French border.

In a secret negotiation, Marie-Antoinette also met with Revolutionary leader the Count of Mirabeau, who was ▶

From autocratic to headless

For Marie-Antoinette, the French Revolution was one four-year-long tragedy.

1789

May Looming state bankruptcy forces King Louis XVI to accept political reform in autocratic France.

July An armed crowd storm the state prison, Bastille in Paris.

October Parisians march on the Palace of Versailles forcing the royal family to move to the Tuileries Palace in Paris.

1790

June Marie-Antoinette proposes her husband escape as the atmosphere in Paris becomes increasingly threatening.

1791

June The royal family escape from Paris, but just 50 kilometres from the border are forced to return to the capital.

August Austria and Prussia swear to protect France's royal family. The message is provocative to the revolutionaries.

1792

April France goes to war with the queen's country, Austria.

August When a mob attacks, the queen wants to fight. But the king orders an escape to the National Assembly.

September The revolutionary politicians abolish the monarchy and the royal family are locked up in jail at Le Temple.

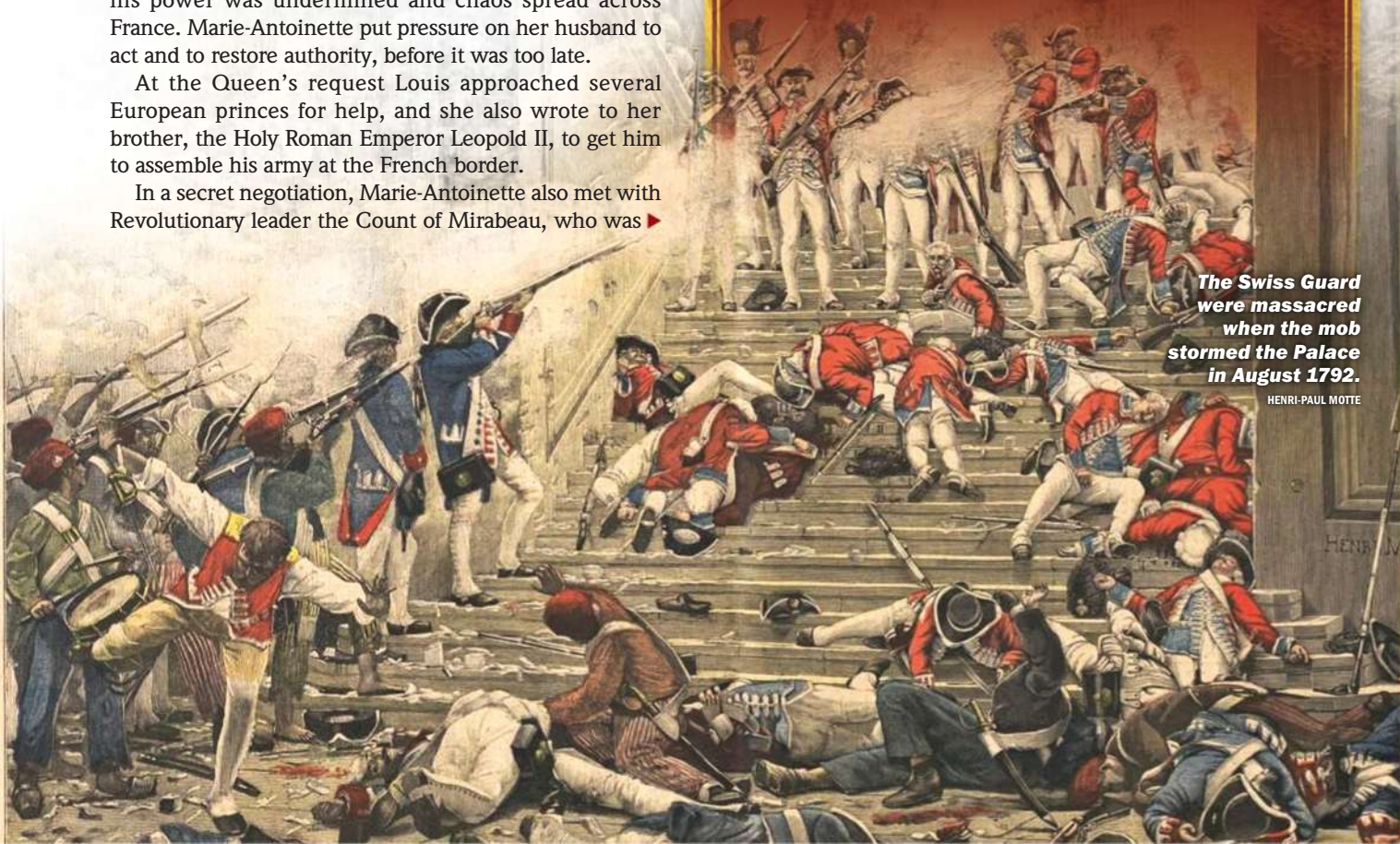
1793

January Louis XVI is executed as a traitor on the guillotine.

October Queen Marie-Antoinette also loses her head.

The Swiss Guard were massacred when the mob stormed the Palace in August 1792.

HENRI-PAUL MOTTE



a moderate voice among the ever-growing chorus of extremists. Although they disagreed on almost everything, both shared a desire to preserve the monarchy, but the odd alliance was short-lived. Mirabeau died suddenly in April 1791, and with his death the queen's attempt to influence the revolution from within ended. No one had any more influence over the government, and on the night of 10th August, 1792 angry masses stormed the palace.

The last coach trip

"We'll be back soon", Marie-Antoinette had said to the servants before she and her family hurried from the Tuileries to take refuge in the National Assembly. Shortly after, over 20,000 excited Parisians stormed the palace, turning it into a slaughterhouse. Servants and courtiers were stabbed or thrown out of windows, and the Swiss guard were wiped out by the mob.

The National Assembly could only offer the refugees temporary safety, while listening to cries for the monarchy

to be abolished and orders for the royal family to be imprisoned in Le Temple, a former Templar fortress in Paris. At 6 pm on 13th August, Louis Capet – as the revolutionaries called the dethroned king – put Marie-Antoinette and their two terrified children into the royal coach for the last time.

The coachmen were ordered to drive slowly and make a detour through the capital's streets so residents could enjoy the sight of the royal family's humiliation. But Parisians did not get the opportunity to gloat over "the Austrian whore" as Marie-Antoinette was mockingly called. While the carriage bounced over the cobblestones towards the prison, she sat tall and defiant.

Queen's friend is killed

As summer turned to autumn, the royal family led a quiet life behind Le Temple's walls. Louis XVI taught his seven-year-old son Louis Charles history and geography, and while Marie-Antoinette spent time playing chess, embroidering and entertaining the couple's 13-year-old daughter Marie Thérèse with games from her childhood.

Surroundings in prison were far from luxurious, but the food was pretty good and the family indulged in sumptuous meals with soup, roast and dessert served with red wine and even champagne. Marie-Antoinette was content to nibble at the food, and snap at the waiters, raging over her limited freedom and complaining that she could not take a step without being followed.

There were no newspapers allowed in prison, but Marie-Antoinette heard newspaper sellers' cries outside the prison and knew that a witch hunt was in full swing. Priests, nobles and others suspected of sympathising with the royals were thrown in jail, and many beheaded at the guillotine, if they hadn't been massacred by the mob.

One September day in 1792, the impending horrors seemed unbearably close. The well-guarded prisoners heard screams and cries from the garden, and when the king asked a guard what was happening, the answer was disturbing: the royal family's close friend, and queen's companion, Marie Thérèse de Lamballe, had been murdered, her head put on display, and the perpetrators were on the way to show the king's family their trophy.

Marie-Antoinette collapsed – the first time her children had seen her lose control and show any weakness.

Royal letters triggered the death penalty

In late November 1792, a wooden box with the ex-king's personal letters was found at the Tuileries. On Louis XVI's order it had been bricked into a wall, but one of his closest aides tipped off the Republic, and now they had damning proof of the former ruler's betrayal: secretly, he had corresponded with foreign princes and asked them to take action against the revolution.

Hatred erupted with renewed vigour, and Marie-Antoinette clearly sensed the mood. For several weeks she did not eat or sleep and while Louis remained in good spirits and ate well, his once-beautiful wife shrank into a pale and fragile woman with red-rimmed eyes, snow-white hair and a body so thin that clothes hung from her.

The queen was a counter-revolutionary

Many charges against Marie-Antoinette were pure invention, but not her distaste for the revolution.

☀ Refused to cede power

In the revolution's first phase, when King Louis XVI still had political influence, Marie-Antoinette called on him to use his veto against politicians' decisions. He did this so often that the royal couple was nicknamed "Mr and Mrs Veto".

☀ Tried to escape

In July 1791, the queen persuaded her husband to flee from Paris bound for the border fortress of Montmédy. She would not leave France, but wanted a secure base, so they could regroup and fight back at the capital's revolutionaries.

☀ Urged world powers to interfere

After the failed flight from Paris, Marie-Antoinette saw foreign intervention as the royal family's only salvation. She asked her brother to join with other major powers and threaten the revolutionaries with revenge for their assaults.



After a vain attempt to escape, the royal family returned to Paris.

Her strength had gone – and on a December day in 1792 she lost her husband too. The revolutionaries prosecuted Louis for high treason, and while the trial progressed, the king was separated from his family, living one floor below his wife and children.

Night and day, Marie-Antoinette heard his heavy footsteps in the room downstairs, but over the next six weeks, the guards refused any contact between the two. On the evening of 20th January, 1793, she and her two children were finally allowed to visit him, and they knew why. The judges had not shown Louis any grace: a tiny majority voted for Louis' death.

Marie-Antoinette clung to her husband, the little prince held tight to both parents' hands, and his older sister screamed loudly. France's former king was resigned to the fate that he would face the following day.

The family separated again, and after a sleepless night Marie-Antoinette could hear the tramping soldiers' boots coming up the prison stairs, then the door to the room below opened. Then she heard the wheels of the carriage driving her husband to the guillotine. Marie-Antoinette was only one hour from widowhood, and she knew that she may be the next in the cart.

Marie-Antoinette's the next target

France's former queen was anticipating an attack, but when it came, it was not at all what she expected. On the night of 3rd July, the guards came and took her eight-year-old son away – allegedly because there were rumours of an imminent escape attempt circulating. As heir to the French throne, he was considered a threat.

Marie-Antoinette clutched Louis to her for an hour, even though those around her were making threats against her life. She only let go when the guards threatened to kill her daughter Marie Thérèse. Over the following nights, she heard the boy cry from his room somewhere else in Le Temple.

A month later, Marie-Antoinette lost contact with her son completely and guards come in the night to take her

Queen almost kissed a corpse

The Princess of Lamballe was Marie-Antoinette's close friend and rumoured lover. She was one of more than 1,000 victims when a mob stormed La Force prison in Paris on 2nd September and slaughtered all in sight. Lamballe's head was placed on a pole and led to Le Temple prison, where the mob would force Marie-Antoinette to kiss it, but the procession was stopped at the gate by a revolutionary commissioner.



Princess Lamballe was killed with a hammer and then dismembered.

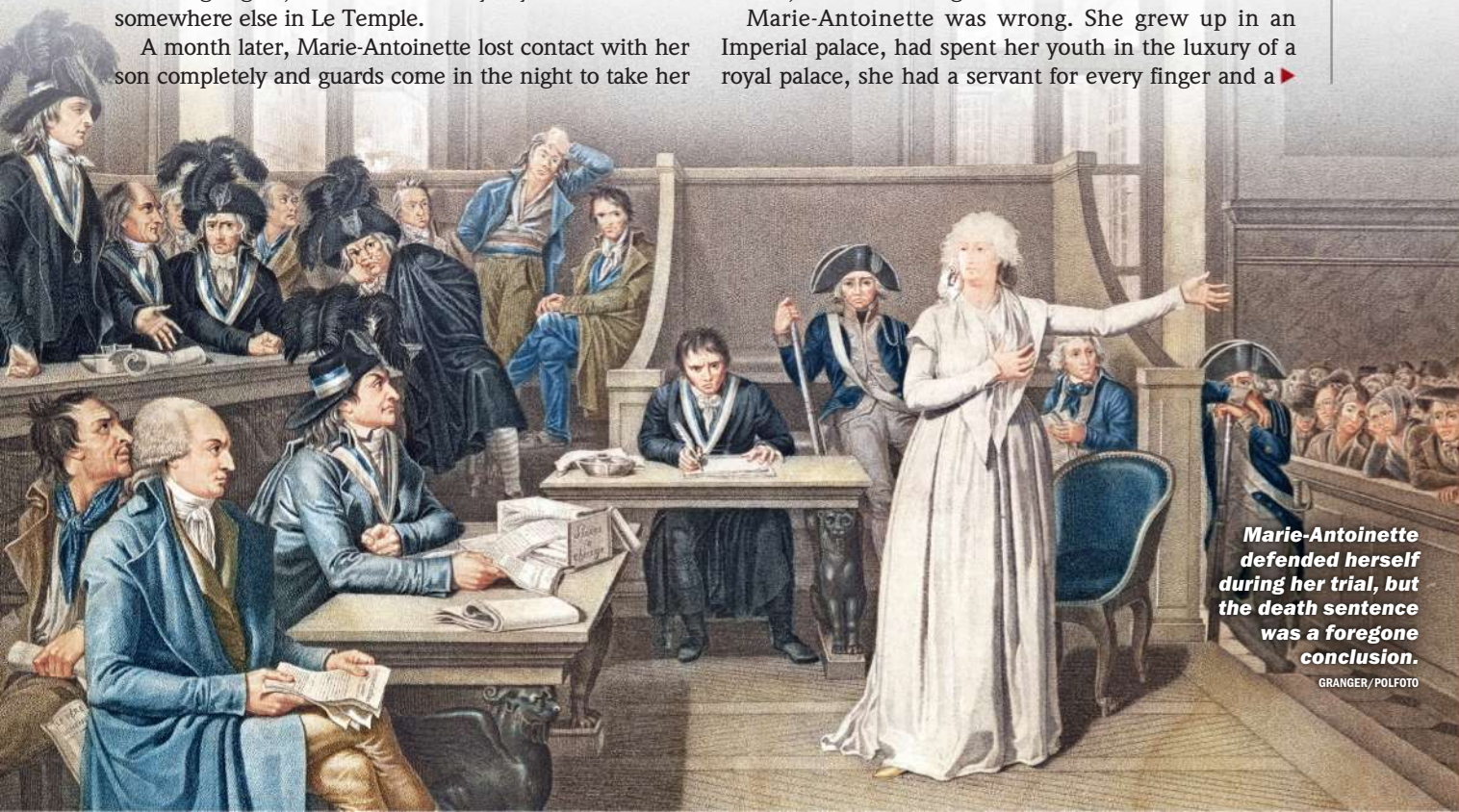
LEON-MAXIME FAIVRE

daughter. At two o'clock on 2nd August, four men came to inform her that she was being moved to the Conciergerie – a dark and gloomy prison, popularly called “death's waiting room”. Her forebodings had come true, the revolutionary government had decided to start proceedings against the “widow Capet”.

Calm and collected, Marie-Antoinette followed, but on the way out of Le Temple's low gate, she bumped against a beam. One of the officers asked if she was hurt, but she just shook her head and replied:

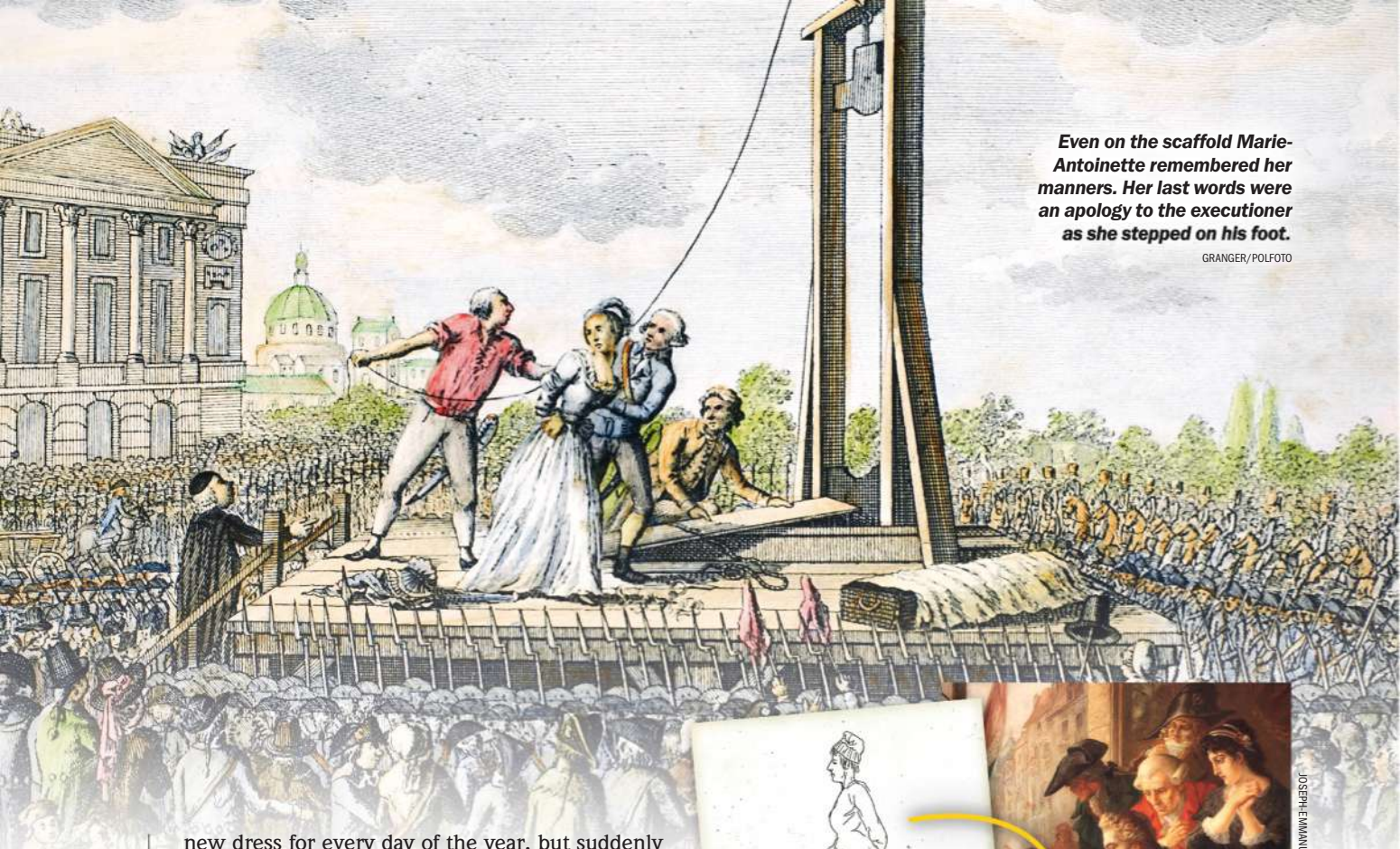
“No, there is nothing more that can hurt me”.

Marie-Antoinette was wrong. She grew up in an Imperial palace, had spent her youth in the luxury of a royal palace, she had a servant for every finger and a ▶



Marie-Antoinette defended herself during her trial, but the death sentence was a foregone conclusion.

GRANGER/POLFO



Even on the scaffold Marie-Antoinette remembered her manners. Her last words were an apology to the executioner as she stepped on his foot.

GRANGER/POLFO

new dress for every day of the year, but suddenly she was banished to a solitary cell. It was cold, damp and as dark as a coffin, and her children were now far out of reach.

She no longer feared death, but missing her children was unbearable, and she constantly toyed with the locket, in which she stored locks of their hair. After a few days, her guardians took it from her along with the last of her possessions: her rings, a gold watch from Austria and her brooches.

Day by day, Marie-Antoinette's health weakened, and she was exhausted to such a degree that she barely managed to stay upright. After over 70 days without daylight, she was brought before the revolutionary court, her lips were pale and her skin almost transparent. With her grey-white hair in a braid, wearing a long, white dress, the queen resembled a ghost – she was only 37.

Death sentence was a foregone conclusion

Marie-Antoinette settled on the iron chair and let her eyes wander across the crowded room. It was 14th October, 1793, and people flocked to attend the trial of the country's former queen, described by the newspapers as "the scourge of her country and a disgrace to her sex".

Without showing the slightest sign of movement, France's most hated woman faced the stream of accusations that the revolution tribunal's prosecutor Antoine Fouquier hurled against her: she had sent large sums to her Imperial brother in Austria, she had planned to kill revolutionaries, she manipulated Louis XVI, she conspired with foreign powers, and she wrongly appointed her son as king.

"Finally, in every respect, amoral widow Capet had forgotten her motherly instincts and limitations set by the



BRIDGEMAN



JOSEPH-EMMANUEL VAN DEN BUISCHE

In 1793, Jacques-Louis David was France's greatest artist. He drew this sketch when he saw the former queen go to her death on 16th October.

laws of nature and prostituted herself with Louis Charles Capet, her son", triumphed Fouquier. "According to his confession, she has committed indecent acts with him and nature strikes her soul with this horror".

The charges were without end, and Marie-Antoinette only had one day to prepare her defence. She had not been able to summon a single witness who could support her words, whereas Fouquier had collected 40.

During the 15 hours of the trial, the prosecutor called one witness after another, who together must prove that Marie-Antoinette was the evil power behind weak King Louis' throne. But their testimonials proved to be gossip and second-hand reports and no hard evidence came to light. The former queen refuted outright all the allegations, with a strength and energy she had not shown before.

The process continued on 15th October for a further 16 hours, where she was only given a small portion of soup, but she remained calm and controlled throughout until Fouquier came to the accusation of the sexual abuse of her son. Marie-Antoinette waited until the president demanded an answer, and then she exclaimed with undisguised contempt:

"When I did not answer, it is only because human nature cannot answer such a charge against a mother". So

she turned to the women in the gallery and said in a loud voice:

"I appeal to all mothers in this room".

For the first and only time during the trial there was some sympathy for the deposed queen. The women by Marie-Antoinette flapped, many of them burst into tears and some passed out and were carried from the chamber.

The inquiry continued until three in the morning, when the jury left the courtroom to deliberate, and Marie-Antoinette was about to faint from fatigue. An hour later, facing her fate, the men were back to cast the judgement which had already been decided by the leaders of the Revolution days before her trial began: she was found guilty of all charges – the guillotine awaited her.

The doomed queen was taken back to her cell, where as a last favour, she was allowed to have two lights on. In the glow from the flickering tapers she wrote a last letter to her sister-in-law, Princess Élisabeth.

"I've just been condemned, not to a shameful death, which is saved for criminals, but to revisit your brother. Innocent as he, I hope to show the same strength in these last moments. I am calm, as it is when ones' conscience is clean. I deeply regret having to leave my poor children. You know I only lived for them", she wrote.

When the letter was finished, the queen dressed for the very last time. She put on a white robe, black, high-heeled silk shoes, a cap and around her shoulders, a fine shawl. A kitchen girl tried to persuade her to eat, but the queen declined:

"My child, I do not need anything more, for me everything is past". But she changed her mind when the girl said that the soup had been cooked just for her.

The last journey to the scaffold

When the wrought-iron gates at the Concierge opened at 11 o'clock on 16th October, 1793, the former queen was carried out in the pale autumn sun. With her hands tied behind her back, she went confidently into the executioner's simple cart, where she was helped onboard.

The whole of Paris was on its feet – over 30,000 soldiers stood guard in the streets and the entire route to the Place de la Concorde where the guillotine stood was lined with people hoping for a glimpse of the doomed queen. The cheer escalated and contemptuous shouting raged as the carriage rattled past, but the queen didn't show the tiniest reaction. She stared straight ahead, contempt shining in her face, and despite the cart's lurching drive she sat tall as if she was on a throne.

As they turned the corner to the mighty Place de la Concorde, a roar erupted through the Assembly. Hundreds of thousands of Parisians had waited from the early morning and amused themselves by chatting, knitting and reading newspapers, saying that the "whore would finally wear the hangman's noose".

Now there was silence. Parents hushed their children, street vendors stop peddling juice, nuts and sweets and the tricoteuse put their needles down. Only the horse's heavy hooves and wagon wheels creaking could be heard. The cart stopped in front of the scaffold, and when the executioner offered the queen his arm, she refused and

eased herself down. Resolutely she walked up the stairs to the platform where the guillotine stood, but just before the last step she trod on the executioner's toes and exclaimed politely:

"Sorry, sir, it was not on purpose".

It was 12.15 by the time the executioner did his duty, and lifted the queen's pale head by her hair and displayed it above the crowd.

"Long live the Republic", were the chants from the crowd. Widow Capet, the Austrian whore, who was never liked at the French court nor among the people, was gone. ■

FURTHER READING

● Joan Haslip: *Marie-Antoinette – dronningen, der endte på guillotinen*, Politikens Forlag, 1987 ● Jean-Baptiste Cléry: *Eyewitness to Louis 16. & Marie-Antoinette's Nightmare*, Diderot Press, 2011 ● Antonia Fraser: *Marie Antoinette – The Journey*, Phoenix, 2002 ● *Trial of Marie Antoinette, Late Queen of France*, MOML, 1795

Her son never left prison

Louis XVI's son was considered a threat to the revolution, and the régime showed him no mercy.

Punishment for an attempted escape was the formal reason given when Prince Louis Charles was torn from his mother's arms in July 1793. But the régime in Paris also had an ambition for Marie-Antoinette's son to become a good revolutionary. The eight-year-old prince was placed in solitary confinement, where a shoemaker named Simon looked after him.

Details of the boy's fate are unknown, but according to official papers, he died in prison aged 10 in June 1795, possibly a victim of tuberculosis.

Rumours spread that he was not dead, and over the next few years more than 30 men said they'd seen the missing prince.

In the last six years of his life the prince refused to speak.

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Marie Thérèse

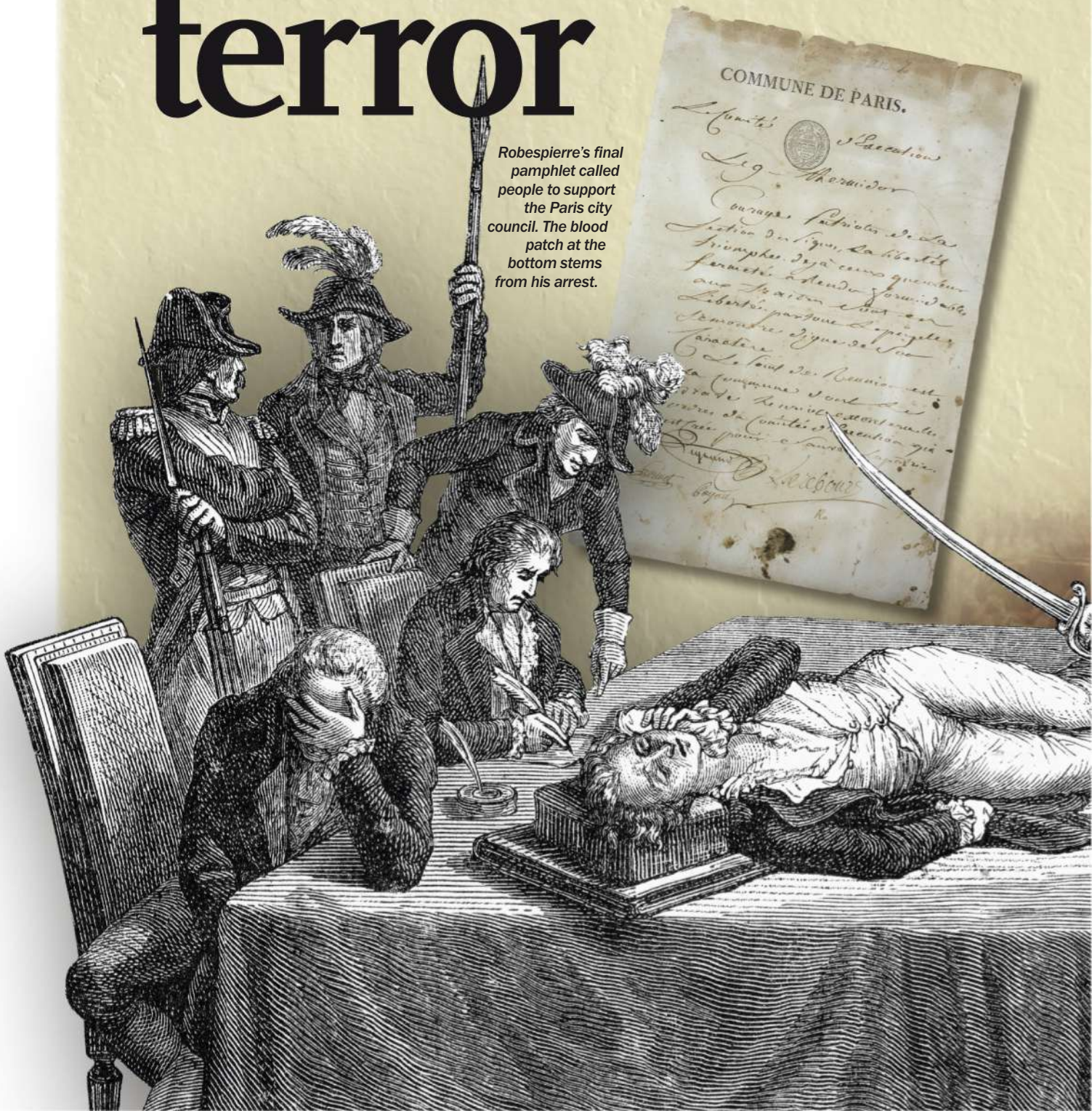
The only daughter survived

Marie-Antoinette's daughter Marie Thérèse was extradited to Austria in 1795. The 17-year-old girl developed into a strong woman as Emperor Napoleon later called her "the only man in her family." After a childless and joyless marriage to her cousin, she died in 1851, at 72 years old.

40,000 lost their lives in France's bloody revolution – many were killed on the orders of one man: Robespierre.

Master of terror

Robespierre's final pamphlet called people to support the Paris city council. The blood patch at the bottom stems from his arrest.



The lawyer Maximilien Robespierre became the people's hero and led the struggle for freedom, equality and fraternity. But his urge for rapid reforms and his growing paranoia led to the "Reign of Terror", which in the space of two short years saw thousands lose their heads on the guillotine.

BY STINE OVERBYE

The doctor bent over the wounded man lying on the green table in a front room of the Hôtel de Ville in Paris, home to the Committee of Public Safety. The dressing that covered most of the man's face was soaked with blood, and the doctor peeled off the crude dressing to inspect the wound.

Although the pain was unbearable, the man uttered no sound, but stared intently at the ceiling while the doctor examined his shattered jaw. Swiftly and efficiently, the doctor pulled his loose teeth, remove splinters of bone and skin fragments and replaced the dressing

before leaving the room. It was around six o'clock in the morning on 28th July, 1794, and bright sunlight was already streaming through the windows.

The minute the doctor left, the man managed to sit up. His socks were round his ankles, so he rolled them up before forcing himself off the table to stagger a few metres to a chair, which he sank into. He stared blankly into space while the blood seeped through the dressing and dried in red splotches on his sky-blue jacket.

A few hours later four men came collect him. He was still sitting in the chair, so at nine o'clock he was ►

FRANCE/1789

France teeters on the edge of bankruptcy after a disastrous harvest. The incompetent King Louis XVI seeks support for new taxes and summons the people's representatives. Thus he signs his own death warrant.



Soldiers kept guard over the wounded Robespierre and his friends, who had already evaded capture once.

BRIDGEMAN & ROGER VIOUET



carried from the room and into the Revolutionary Court, where a predictable judgment awaited him. The 36-year-old Maximilien Robespierre knew he was on his way to the guillotine and that his head would soon roll. Thus he would share the same fate as the several thousands of compatriots whom he himself had sent to the scaffold during his reign of terror.

Robespierre grew up in shame

The young Robespierre had ambitions from an early age to restore the honour of his family. His father had never shown great interest in his wife and children and after his wife's death would disappear

for months on end until suddenly reappearing to borrow money from his parents and other family members.

It had been inevitable that Robespierre's father would be a lawyer like his own father, but he was too unstable to make a career of it. The fact he'd made a young girl pregnant without being married to her was an indication of this – it was only averted by a hastily arranged wedding to Jacqueline Marguerite Carraut. Four months later on 6th May 1758, she gave birth to Maximilien.

He was only six years old when his mother died in childbirth at the age

of 29. She left behind four children: Maximilien, two daughters Charlotte and Henriette and a second son Augustin, who was not yet two years old. This left Maximilien as the head of his family, for in his deep grief, his father abandoned his law practice, took up drinking and disappeared for long periods at a time.

Some time after his mother's death, it was decided that Maximilien and Augustin would live with their maternal grandparents while the sisters were sent to their aunt. The separation left a deep impression on the already grieving Maximilien,

On 21st January, 1793, King Louis XVI was driven to the guillotine and beheaded. The day before, he had been sentenced to death.



The king lost his throne, his family and his head

King Louis XVI was hunting on 14th July, 1789, when Parisians rebelled. He never managed to intercede before revolution overthrew the monarchy.

France's King Louis XVI (1754-1793) was a well-meaning man who sadly lacked his father's and grandfather's ability to rule a powerful country like France – particularly during times of crisis. His Austrian-born queen, Marie-Antoinette (1755-1793), was also extremely unpopular, where rumours spread about her opulent spending habits and indifference to her people's suffering. The most notorious anecdote – probably untrue – is that after a bad harvest in 1789 she said, "If they have no bread, let them eat cake". On the other hand, it's

true that when an angry mob stormed the harsh Bastille prison in Paris on 14th July to trigger the revolution, the king was hunting at his luxury palace in Versailles 25 km away. He never managed to regain control of the army before being captured and transported to Paris under house arrest after a group of women marched on Versailles.

In June 1791, Louis XVI and his family were helped to escape, but he was recognised from a coin and the family were imprisoned. 18 months later, the National Convention sentenced him to

death for high treason. However, the revolutionaries wanted to remove the entire monarchy, and in the autumn of 1793 the queen was sentenced to death, both for high treason and for incest with the eight-year-old crown prince. She was beheaded on 16th October. The crown prince, last male heir to the French throne, died in prison aged ten from a combination of rat bites, tuberculosis and hunger. Daughter Marie Thérèse Charlotte married an English nobleman and lived until 1851 without making a claim to the throne.

who quickly sensed that he and his siblings were an unwelcome burden to his extended family – it was hard enough to make a living as it was. His character changed almost overnight, from a carefree and lively boy to a young adult with a brooding mind. He avoided other children, preferring to shut himself away with his small model houses and his sparrows and pigeons, who were his only real friends.

During his upbringing in Arras, Maximilien Robespierre suffered from his father's disgrace and when he finally disappeared for good in 1772, the 14-year-old Robespierre felt almost relieved as if the guilt and humiliation had vanished with his father. No one in the family talked about his father, but it had always been left unspoken that he had cast shame on the family and that was to be passed on to his eldest son, Maximilien.

Lawyer opposed the death penalty

Even before Maximilien started at the local school at the age of eight, he had learned to read and write. He had lofty ambitions – driven by his burning desire to restore the family's honour. He subsequently received a scholarship to an elite boarding school in Paris, the Collège Louis-le-Grand. Here he attracted immediate attention as an extremely intelligent and ambitious, but also reserved loner.

During his studies in Paris, the young Maximilien first encountered the author and philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Rousseau first introduced the ideas behind the French Revolution with his book "The Social Contract", published in 1762. "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains", he wrote in its first sentence, making an enduring impression on Robespierre. In Rousseau, Robespierre felt that he had found an ideological model, and took note of Rousseau's ideas about the sovereignty of the people – that a government could only be legitimate if the citizens themselves decided the laws under which they lived. Rousseau's assertion was that, as humans, we can only exercise our moral freedom as citizens when we have created a society of equal opportunities and equality before the law. The social contract was far removed from the highly stratified French state that Robespierre had grown up in. Here, the king was absolute, and inequality the



The condemned man was laid on his stomach, and the blade was released.

Surgeon invented the Nation's Razor

In 1789, French physician Joseph Ignace Guillotin proposed that everyone should be executed in the same way. Previously, beheading had been reserved for the nobility, while common people were hung.

Those involved in the design and construction of such a "humane" execution machine included Louis XVI's surgeon Antoine Louis, and German engineer harpsichord maker Tobias Schmidt. Initially the machine was tested on corpses, and then on 25th April, 1792, Nicholas Pelletier became the first criminal to die by it. He was placed on a stretcher, then his head was put in place. The executioner pulled a cord, the blade dropped and the head of the condemned was chopped off.

Initially, the execution machine was called a "louison" or "louisette" after its inventor. Over time it acquired several names: "guillotine" (after Guillotin), "The Nation's Razor" and "Widow".

During the revolution, thousands of state enemies were executed publicly in the Place de la Revolution in Paris, and their severed heads were shown to the crowd.



The "tricoteuses" were infamous women who sat near to the scaffold knitting – looking up to cheer at each execution.

norm with the poor bearing the heaviest burden and being excluded from most freedoms and privileges.

In 1781, aged 23, the newly qualified lawyer returned to his birthplace in Arras. From day one, Robespierre was a man with a cause: his heart beat for the excluded, weak and poor, and he often agreed to defend people who couldn't afford his fees. His sister Charlotte described him as "supporter of the oppressed and the avenger of innocence". Any time he was given the opportunity, he argued against the death penalty, which he found abhorrent. "I know he is guilty, that he is a villain, but even so, to cause a man to die..." He reputedly said.

"The avenger of innocents"

Robespierre appeared to harbour no ambition to go into national politics. He was eagerly involved in local associations, but only publicly aired his opinions when he brought a case of political importance.

This happened when he took on a client in February 1789. M. Dupond was a soldier returning home after 20 years abroad to claim his rightful inheritance from an uncle. But Dupond's family was not prepared to share this legacy with their returning relative. Using bribery, they had issued a so-called "lettre de cachet", a letter containing the royal seal that allowed it to bypass the legal system, which landed the persistent Dupond in jail for an indefinite term.

This type of letter using the royal seal was greatly hated across all walks of life. Dupond was jailed for several years until he was able to bribe his way out. He immediately engaged Robespierre to prosecute his case, and the ambitious lawyer used the opportunity both in writing and in court to criticise the royal letters and the corrupt system that issued them.

In 1789, he took the leap from unknown provincial lawyer in Arras to become a politician in Versailles. France was on the brink of bankruptcy and Louis XVI called the Estates-General in May to address the country's financial crisis. The assembly, which had not been convened ►

since 1614, consisted of representatives from the three “states”: clergy, nobility and commoners. The latter was a large, complex group combining urban citizens and the upper levels of the peasantry. In total, the Third Estate represented 27.5 million of France’s 28 million inhabitants, and had recently pressured the king to double their number of representatives in the Estates-General. It meant they now had as many members as the other two states combined.

Here was Robespierre’s chance for a political breakthrough. As a citizen, he was elected as one of eight Third Estate representatives for Arras and suddenly found himself at the centre of power and action. He was incredibly nervous when he first addressed the Assembly

in Versailles. Nevertheless, the other delegates and journalists noted the pale, thin man with speckled white hair who spoke fiercely on behalf of the poor. One of the Assembly’s leading figures, the Count of Mirabeau, remarked: “He will go far. He believes everything he says”.

A lake of blood lay under the Paris guillotine that attracted stray dogs and polluted the city’s wells.

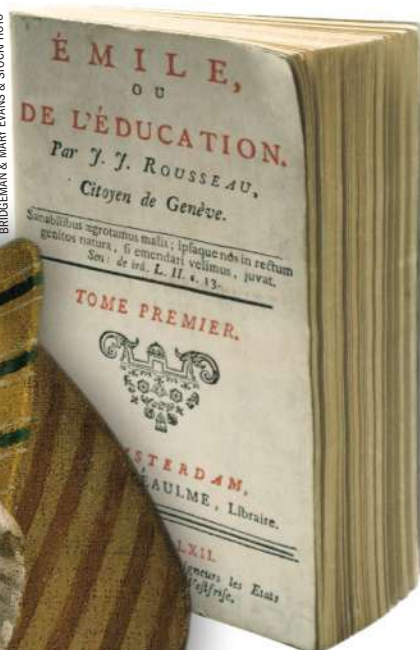
Robespierre was indeed destined for greatness. When the Third Estate proclaimed a National Assembly on 17th June, 1789, the revolution began. Public support followed a month later when, on 14th July, a mob stormed the Bastille prison in Paris. Over the next five years, the French Revolution would turn the social order on its head.

Robespierre’s personal debut as a national politician was far from convincing. Several times he was booed off the podium because his audience found him too pious and fanatical – one even yelled, “We want no psalm-singing here!” in response to his sing-song intonation. But Robespierre persevered, and gained a

Robespierre (left) was deeply influenced by Rousseau’s belief that human beings are born free to do good, but are affected by harmful actions.



BRIDGEMAN & MARY EVANS & STOCKPHOTO



reputation for an unassailable morality – among the people he was rewarded with the nickname, “The Incorruptible”. In the first year of the revolution, Robespierre was one of many working around the clock to transform all aspects of society into a modern state along American lines. But as time went on, Robespierre became more influential and soon became leader of the Jacobin Club, the revolution’s main political group, and voice to its most radical wing.

King died under the scaffold

In August 1792, Louis XVI was arrested and the monarchy was abolished when the new constitutional assembly, the National Convention, met on 22nd September to proclaim France a republic. A pressing issue was the king’s fate, and Robespierre was an irreconcilable advocate for execution.

“The king must die so that the country can live”, he argued, while stressing in the same breath that he was opposed to the death penalty for ordinary citizens. The assembly’s moderate wing – the Girondins – demanded a vote on the proposed sentence, and in January 1793, by a majority of just one, the assembly agreed with Robespierre that the king would be executed.

On 21st January, Louis was guillotined on the Place de la Revolution (formerly Place Louis XV, now Place de la Concorde). After the execution, hordes of enthusiastic spectators crowded round to dip their handkerchiefs in the blood dripping from the scaffold as a memento of the landmark event.

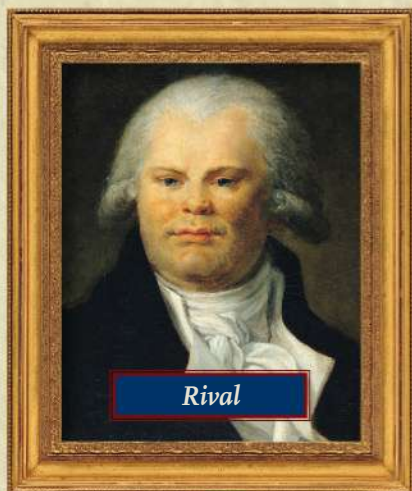
Disagreement over the king’s fate had exposed the deep divide between the assembly’s two political wings, but after a bitter power struggle, Robespierre killed his political opponents. On 2nd June, 1793 he had 21 senior Girondists arrested and later executed. Not only had they tried to block the king’s death sentence, they’d also opposed the creation of a Revolutionary Tribunal to try “the enemies of the people”. The court was established in March 1793, and still Robespierre wanted more power. When he joined the Committee of Public Safety, which effectively ran the government, he was on his way to becoming France’s undisputed leader.

The revolution demanded terror

Because the ends – liberté, égalité, fraternité (liberty, equality,

Revolution crushed its founders

After the king's execution, a number of young revolutionaries rose to the top under the slogan, "Freedom, Equality, and Brotherhood". But the inner circle became increasingly politically radicalised, public opinion sought new scapegoats and one by one their heads rolled one-by-one.



GEORGES DANTON

1759-1794

The cheerful and boisterous lawyer was France's most powerful man, but lost a power struggle to Robespierre. After a show trial, he was taken to the scaffold – three months before Robespierre.

Rival

JEAN-PAUL MARAT

1743-1793

Marat used his newspaper *L'Ami du Peuple* ("Friend of the People") to stir revolution, and he ruled France together with Danton and Robespierre. He was assassinated in his bathtub by a political enemy.

Editor



LOUIS DE SAINT-JUST

1767-1794

Saint-Just made waves in 1789 with a revolutionary poem. He became Robespierre's closest political ally and friend – and was beheaded with him.

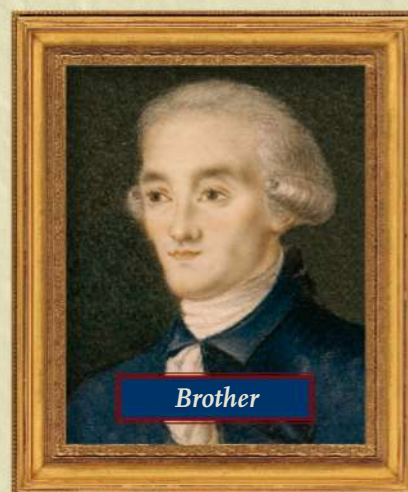
Poet

AUGUSTIN ROBESPIERRE

1763-1794

The young lawyer was his brother's loyal ally. When Maximilien was arrested, Augustin tried to flee, but broke both legs – and accompanied his brother on to the guillotine.

Brother



Revolutionary mottos



The French Republic sported a consistent design. The royal colours were replaced by a new flag, mottos and symbols.

1 The Republic's inscription states: "Unity, indivisibility of the Republic; liberty, equality, fraternity or death". **2** The new flag's colours mean freedom, equality and fraternity.

3 "Death to tyrants" was among the revolutionary forces' slogans. **4** The Phrygian cap was the headgear of French workers – and symbol of the revolution.

brotherhood) – justified the means, Robespierre proclaimed a policy of terror on 5th September, 1793 to exterminate France's counter-revolutionaries: "If the attribute of popular government in peace is virtue, the attribute of popular government in revolution is at one and the same time virtue and terror, virtue without which terror is fatal, terror without which virtue is impotent."

Thus, Robespierre had neatly divided the population into two groups: those

who fought for revolution, and those who fought against it. Over the following months, the prisons of the country

were filled with hundreds of thousands of suspected counter-revolutionaries. Everywhere, uprisings were put down with great cruelty. Carts transported the condemned to the scaffolds, and under the Paris guillotine there was always a lake of blood that attracted stray dogs and threatened to contaminate wells.

With growing horror, several members of the National Convention realised what they'd created, and in the spring of 1794, Robespierre faced ►

France was reformed for five years

In five revolutionary years, France reformed at record speed – from equal rights to converting all units of measure to decimal. Ten-hour days and ten-day working weeks were far from popular, however.

RETAINED

HUMAN RIGHTS

The National Convention established in 1789 those political rights recognised by democracies today.



FRANCE WAS SPLIT UP

In 1790, France's old provinces were replaced by 83 equal ministries with a measure of self-government.

THE METRIC SYSTEM

The metric unit of measurement had already been invented, but France was the first to officially adopt it in 1791.



REPEALED

SEPTEMBER/ VENDEMAIRE



DECEMBER/NIVÔSE



THE REPUBLICAN CALENDAR

was introduced in 1793 and started a new year at the autumn equinox on 23rd September. The months were 30 or 31 days as before, but renamed:

AUTUMN: Vendémiaire, Brumaire, Frimaire.

WINTER: Nivôse, Pluviôse, Ventôse.

SPRING: Germinal, Floréal, Prairial.

SUMMER: Messidor, Thermidor, Fructidor.

MARCH/GERMINAL



JUNE/MESSIDOR



TIME WAS DIVIDED IN DECIMAL

A day lasted ten hours and a week, ten days. The system was officially abandoned in 1805 – one reason was it gave workers fewer days off.



criticism on two fronts: Georges-Jacques Danton, his friend from the Jacobin Club, campaigned to end the “Reign of Terror” and ongoing executions. Another wing, led by Jacques René Hébert, accused Robespierre of being too moderate. Robespierre was furious at the criticism and saw an opportunity to thin the ranks. On 24th March he had Hébert and his followers executed, and Danton and his supporters followed suit on the guillotine – or “National Razor” as it was dubbed – on 5th April.

30 Parisians were executed daily

Robespierre constantly discovered new enemies, who he believed were plotting against the ideals he’d fought so enthusiastically for. In order to avoid confrontation, the government introduced a law in June 1794 that denied the accused any form of defence, so enemies could be sent to prison or the scaffold without trial.

Before, several weeks could pass between executions, but now carts would transport piles of the accused to the guillotine on a daily basis. In Paris alone, an average of 30 people were executed each day. No one was safe from the Nation’s Razor, and any action or comment could be perceived as counter-revolutionary. The death penalty didn’t discriminate between rich, poor, young and old – a winemaker could be executed for producing sour wine because it “posed a threat to public safety”. A young man who cut down a tree that had been planted in honour of the revolution would lose his head along with the citizen who owned a prayer book with a crown on its cover. An accusation of selfishness was enough to trigger a one-way trip to the scaffold, as was being associated – friend or family – with a counter-revolutionary. Young children were guillotined along with their parents, along with servants whose only crime was to have worked for an enemy of the people. When the Reign of Terror ended, over 40,000 people had been murdered or executed.

The final showdown

Members of both the Committee for Public Safety and the National Convention began to distrust Robespierre, who – in their opinion – had become tyrannical and too powerful. On 26th July, 1794, Robespierre addressed the National Convention with

a two-hour speech defending himself against such charges and warning of a conspiracy against the Republic. He threatened another purge, but it was the beginning of the end. No names had been mentioned, but everyone felt threatened and his political opponents gathered for a showdown.

The following day, Robespierre was denied access to the tribune and arrested along with his faithful allies. Later that day he was freed by his supporters who led him to safety in the Hôtel de Ville, but shortly after midnight on 28th July, his refuge was stormed by troops loyal to the National Convention.

Tyrant is carted to the guillotine

“Take courage, freedom will win”. Maximilien Robespierre was in the process of writing this and other slogans, but he only reached the first two letters of his last name before being apprehended. During the arrest he was shot through the jaw,

either in a suicide attempt or by an officer’s bullet.

The following morning, Robespierre was collected from the Hôtel de Ville and sent to the Revolutionary Court. The judge was content to confirm his identity before sending him to the death cart already waiting outside. Thousands lined the street hoping for a glimpse of the fallen tyrant.

They didn’t see much: Robespierre’s face was wrapped in bloody bandages, his eyes were closed under their blueish eyelids most of the time, and he betrayed no emotion as he sat in the cart. A woman came from the crowd and struck him: “Scram, spiteful rad, go to the grave knowing that you are cursed by all of France’s wives and widows”.

Among his companions on the cart were Robespierre’s young friend and ally, Saint-Just, as well as his younger brother Augustin, who shared his brother’s fate. When the soldiers had stormed the city hall, Augustin had

attempted to jump through the window to escape, but broke both legs and was immediately arrested.

At six in the evening the cart bumped its way into the Place de la Revolution, where the experienced executioner stood ready. After ending Augustin’s suffering, he moved on to Saint-Just. Finally, the executioner removed Robespierre’s sky-blue jacket and ripped away the bandage.

Robespierre screamed like a wounded animal. This scream of pain was the last sound uttered by Robespierre. Immediately, the executioner put his head in the block and released the blade. The Reign of Terror was over, the man who had instigated it suffering the same fate as thousands of his victims. ■

FURTHER READING

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- George Rude: *Robespierre*, William Collins & Sons, 1975
- Christopher Hibbert: *The French Revolution*, Penguin 1982

People shouted furious slogans at the convicted Robespierre.



BRIDGEMAN

Napoleon abolished the Republic

After Robespierre’s fall, the National Convention attempted to take the revolution in a more moderate direction and held a referendum, which in 1795 gave France a new constitution. Subsequently, power devolved to a five-member Directorate. From the beginning, however, the new regime was extremely unpopular, and in October 1795 royalists in Paris rebelled in an effort to restore

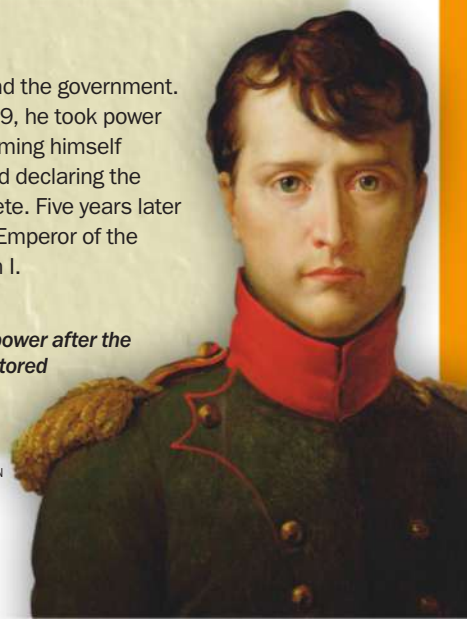
the monarchy. The riots were suppressed by a talented young officer named Napoleon Bonaparte.

It would not be the last time the French heard the name Bonaparte. In 1796 and 1797 he commanded French forces in Italy, where he made his name by defeating the Austrian army. When he returned to France after campaigning in Egypt in 1799, Napoleon was welcomed by a populace tired of

war, revolution and the government. In November 1799, he took power in a coup, proclaiming himself “First Consul” and declaring the revolution complete. Five years later he was crowned Emperor of the French, Napoleon I.

Napoleon seized power after the revolution and restored law and order to a weary France.

BRIDGEMAN





Small wound

The murderer, Charlotte Corday, killed Marat to prevent him from pursuing her politically active friends. The bathroom was slick with blood, but David toned down the gore.

Vinegar-soaked wrap

Marat was – according to a contemporary source – “deformed and ugly”. An itchy skin disease meant he lay for hours in his bath with a cloth soaked in vinegar around his head. David painted the 50-year old as a beautiful youth.

Faking a “hero’s” death

When Jean-Paul Marat, one of France’s most radical revolutionaries, was assassinated in 1793, he became a martyr thanks to David’s masterpiece. But David took liberties with the truth to get his message across.

Murder weapon

Charlotte Corday murdered Marat with a kitchen knife. The murder weapon is next to the bathtub, even though the knife was actually left in Marat’s chest when she stabbed him.



Modest room

Marat's bathroom was lavishly decorated, but David painted an extremely spartan room because he wanted the revolutionary hero to appear as a man of the people.

Murderer's letter

David shows a section of the killer's note that makes Corday appear mentally unstable. In fact, her letter accused Marat and Robespierre of drowning France in blood.

Marat's last letter

In David's painting, Marat was sending money to a poor widow when he was assassinated. In fact, he was noting down the names of people he wanted executed.

Self-acclamation

"By Marat", the painter writes in uppercase letters, then signs his name in type almost as large.

BACKGROUND

During the French Revolution, journalist and politician Jean-Paul Marat was an keen advocate of cleansing royalist ranks through the guillotine. Most of his fellow revolutionaries thought he was too bloodthirsty, but Marat responded by agitating for the death of several of his critics – including the political group that his murderer Charlotte Corday belonged to.

After his killing, Marat's friend and admirer David painted the murder scene. His picture was hung in France's parliament, but was torn down in 1795 once the "Reign of Terror" was over.

FACTS

NAME Jacques-Louis David

BORN 1748 in Paris, France

DIED 1825 in Brussels, Belgium

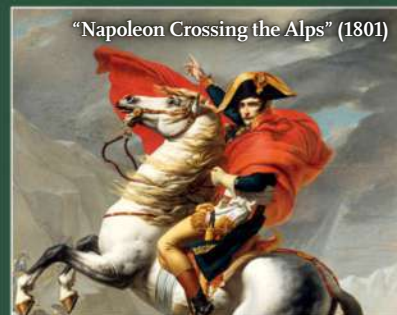
STYLE Revolutionary neoclassicism, which paid tribute to the French Revolution while adhering to Roman and Greek styles of austerity and severity.

SIZE 1.65 m x 1.28 m

EXHIBITED Musées Royaux des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium

DAVID SWITCHED SIDES when the chaos of revolution gave way to Napoleon's authoritarian régime in 1799. Now the artist wholeheartedly supported France's new strong man. Although David had voted to execute the first husband of Napoleon's wife during the revolution, Bonaparte held no grudge; David was permitted to paint large, glorifying works of Napoleon.

"Napoleon Crossing the Alps" (1801)





Revolution's

While the guillotine worked overtime in Paris, the agents of the new regime were dispatched to clean up the French provinces. The revolution's envoys had to remove every aristocrat and enemy of freedom, and they took their jobs seriously.

FRANCE/1793

The revolution has cast France into chaos. What began as an attempt to reform the kingdom has ended in state-controlled terror. Citizens in the French provinces rise in rebellion.



When the people's commissioners pronounced their verdict, it could not be appealed.

BRIDGEMAN & SHUTTERSTOCK

Death Angels

Nearly 100 lean figures stagger through the French city of Nantes, headed for the Loire River. Everyone's hands are tied behind their back, and the crowd is shepherded by guards who keep the dishevelled column moving with shouts, kicks and punches.

The march does not end at the quayside, but continues directly onto a moored barge. The 100 prisoners are pushed close together, because the vessel is small and everyone will be included on the upcoming voyage.

Shortly after, most of the guards return ashore as the barge casts off and slips into the cold waters of the river. The guards line up behind a gentleman dressed in tailored jacket, top hat and a sash sporting the blue, red and white colours of the French Revolution. Before the barge disappears into the November evening, he shouts an order:

"Be sure to drown everyone. No-one must be saved". The harsh command carries over the water. On the heavily loaded vessel, a gentle murmur breaks out as the prisoners turn to prayer.

Church and religion were abolished by the revolutionaries in 1793 – the captive prisoners are all priests and monks, which is why they're on board: they refused to renounce their faith.

In the middle of the river, the guards remove bungs that have prevented water from penetrating through several drilled holes in the hull. They call for a rowing boat, and rapidly disembark.

The priests know they are doomed. As the vessel slowly sinks into the cold water, they give each other absolution. When the water flows over the sides, they cry out in horror. Their screams can be heard on the quay, where the tailored gentleman is still standing.

Jean-Baptiste Carrier, representative of the revolutionary regime in Paris, is satisfied. His decides that this evening's mass drowning will not be the last because the prisons are full of counter-revolutionaries, all of whom must be executed. The cruel punishment will serve to deter others.

In the autumn of 1793 these purges take place across all of France. Although few act with Carrier's ruthlessness, agents from Paris are looking in every corner of France for threats. Everywhere they find

Maximilien Robespierre

"How can we end the civil war? By making a terrible example of all the criminals who have outraged liberty and spilled the blood of patriots."

ROBESPIERRE, 27TH JULY, 1793



BRIDGEMAN

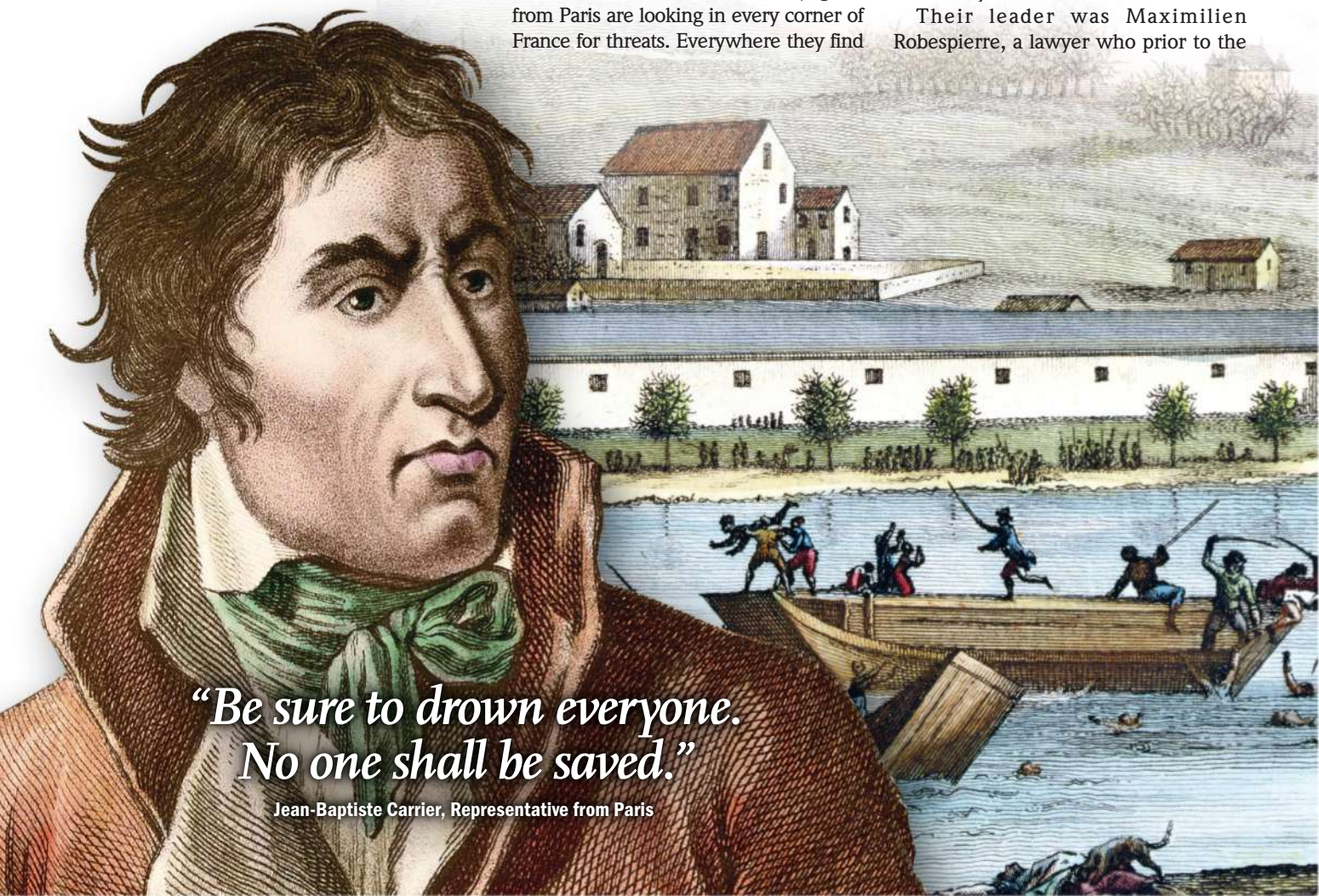
enemies that must be wiped out for the sake of the revolution. No sacrifice is too great when the French people's freedom, equality and fraternity are at stake.

Enemies were found everywhere

The French Revolution began in 1789 with most people wanting progressive forces to work together to replace the old monarchist regime with a modern democracy, where power was given to elected representatives. But the dream turned into a bloody nightmare.

Extremists wielded power. King Louis XVI had been deposed, and was executed in January 1793. Since then, the "Nation's Razor" was in constant use, as each day brought a new cart of so-called traitors to the Paris scaffold. The men in power aimed to wash away all traces of the old royal France in a tide of blood.

Their leader was Maximilien Robespierre, a lawyer who prior to the



*"Be sure to drown everyone.
No one shall be saved."*

Jean-Baptiste Carrier, Representative from Paris

French Revolution brought proceedings on behalf of poor people and spoke passionately for the introduction of human rights. From summer 1793, he was the dominant force in the Committee of Public Safety, which effectively ruled the country. Robespierre's mission was to free the French from the oppression of kings, nobles and the Catholic Church's spiritual domination.

His vision was not shared by everyone. Outside Paris, some missed the monarchy, the leadership of the local nobility and the spiritual care of priests. Others strongly supported the revolution, but refused to follow the Committee's edicts. In several provinces, rebellions rose against the new regime – in particular along the west coast and in the south, Catholics and royalists strove to expel the revolutionaries from their cities.

The rebels were traitors, enemies of the people, Robespierre thundered. He proclaimed a policy that would save the revolution by taking terrifying retribution against the counter-revolutionaries.

"We are going to punish not only the traitors, but also those who do not care. Between the people and its enemies,

only the sword is valid", Robespierre stated on 5th September, 1793. The words were supported by his close associate Jean Paul Marat, who published the newspaper *L'Ami du Peuple* ("The Friend of the People"):

"Let the blood of the traitors flow; that is the only way to save the country", Marat hissed in his column.

The army was charged with defeating the rebels and bringing France under the Committee's control. But the troops needed leaders who could instil the right revolutionary spirit and ensure that they didn't waver. The generals were closely watched too, as the army still included many officers who began their career under the king, so were suspected of royalist sympathies.

The Committee appointed a group of "Representatives on Mission". These were men of the right calibre, ready to use any means in the struggle for freedom. The Revolution's Angels of Death left Paris to crack down on the provinces.

All of France must toe the line

As delegates for the Committee of Public Safety, the Representatives had the final ►

"Let the blood of the traitors flow; that is the only way to save the country."

Editor Jean Paul Marat



Insanity was endorsed

The revolutionary murderers were backed by laws that proclaimed all to be potential enemies.

17TH SEPTEMBER 1793

Everybody was a suspect

The new "Law of Suspects" set categories of suspects who should be arrested and prosecuted. They included nobles, their families, and anyone else who "by their conduct, or their relations, or by their words or writings, have shown themselves to be... enemies of freedom".

4TH DECEMBER 1793

Power came from the centre

"The government in a revolution is the despotism of liberty against tyranny", said Maximilien Robespierre, the dominant force in Paris. He was the behind the "Law of Frimaire", which demanded unconditional obedience to the new regime. No local activism was permitted in French provinces; even the revolution's most faithful followers must wait for specific instructions from Paris.

10TH JUNE 1794

To the scaffold without trial

The "Prairial Law" made it possible to judge suspected counter-revolutionaries without evidence with only two possible outcomes: acquittal or death. The accused had to prove his own innocence and when a verdict was delivered it could not be appealed.



Carrier named the Loire "the national bathtub" after his mass drownings.

WHITE IMAGES/SCALA & BRIDGEMAN

word on anything concerning national security. This gave them absolute power, because in 1793 they were instructed to think, speak and act in the name of the Revolution. While the Republic's local officials and army officers were expected to offer unquestioning obedience, even then it might not be enough.

In Strasbourg, a zealous Revolutionary Judge named Schneider sent 30 suspects to the guillotine, but it didn't save him from execution. His mistake was that he was seen driving through the city in a

carriage drawn by six horses, surrounded by soldiers with drawn swords. This kind of behaviour was evidence of aristocratic leanings, stated Louis Antoine de Saint-Just, who was sent from Paris and was close to Robespierre.

Saint-Just wasn't even one of the most zealous Representatives on Mission. The 24-year-old repressed soldiers and citizens alike, didn't stop at whole massacres. Other Representatives had fewer scruples, but none matched Jean-Baptiste's Carrier taste for murder after

he arrived in the troubled west of France in August 1793.

The coastal province of Vendée had been in open rebellion since March. Most of the population were conservative peasants who raged at the abolition of the Church and refused to heed calls to sign up for the army. Led by local nobility, they formed the Catholic and Royal Army with an aim to turn back the clock and defeat the revolutionaries.

At its peak, the rebel troops numbered 65,000 men and its first victims were

Enemies lurked everywhere

The revolutionary rule was challenged from all sides. The resistance was fuelled by insane orders from Paris, but it merely drove terror's architects to commit even worse atrocities.



Madame Roland
Girondins like Madame Roland were guillotined.

1 Opposition did not approve of the guillotine

Some Republicans in Paris opposed the French Revolution's brutal turn. The Girondins would not support state terror methods, but paid dearly for their position. Its members were accused of dividing the people and on 31st October, 1793, 21 leading Girondins received a "Republican shave" courtesy of the guillotine. The rest of its members followed shortly after.

1



2 Royalists wanted the king back

Farmers on the west coast would not accept abolition of the church or join the army in 1793. They seized arms, and revolutionary troops responded with extreme cruelty. 170,000 were killed during a three-year guerrilla war in the province of Vendée.



2

200 supporters of the revolution, who it massacred. The Committee for Public Safety responded by dispatching 45,000 soldiers to the Vendée to quell the rebellion. But the Catholic and Royal Army proved to be a difficult opponent, even though its ranks consisted mainly of peasants with sharpened scythes.

The Republic faltered in the west

Vendée's peasant soldiers knew their home province, and moved confidently through a landscape where meadows and

dense forest mixed with marsh and hedgerows. The Republic's troops on the other hand were in unfamiliar territory. Many were raw recruits who'd received little training, commanded by similarly inexperienced officers. The Revolutionary Army's lack of military capability saw them defeated in open battle with the miserably equipped rebels.

Thus, Carrier was sent from Paris to rectify the situation. Like Robespierre, he was a former lawyer and voted for the execution of Louis XVI. He brought with him a brutal decree:

"The forest must be cut up, rebel strongholds must be destroyed, the crops must be harvested and taken away by the army troops, and the cattle must be seized", the regime demanded.

The Catholic and Royal Army was finally destroyed after the Battle of Savenay at Le Mans in December 1793. Thousands of rebel troops were killed or captured while the Revolutionary Army's casualties were

light: just 30 dead and 200 injured. Revolutionary soldiers subsequently executed or shot thousands more – prisoners as well as anyone left in the vicinity, including women and children.

Vendée bled

This bloody victory didn't end the Civil War in western France, but it ushered in a new and bloodier phase. The rebels

refused to give up despite their devastating loss, and continued to fight a guerrilla war, exploiting their local knowledge to avoid direct conflict.

Again, the revolutionaries retaliated with a policy of genocide. Driven by Carrier, large parts of the Vendée were declared rebel zones, inside which soldiers were given orders to wipe out all life. These "Hell columns" marched through the area, laying waste to villages, killing people and cattle, and burning the crops.

Troops weren't simply given the right – but were duty-bound – to pillage, rape and murder wherever they went. Their barbarity targeted the female population, who were considered particularly dangerous:

"Without the women, the Republic would already be established and we could all go home and relax", a General complained in a letter to a colleague.

In one village, revolutionary soldiers scythed down the men before building a bonfire for the women and children. They acted indiscriminately, ignoring the fact that some were faithful supporters of the revolution.

Carrier took no personal part in the killings in the Vendée. He moved on to Nantes, where arrested suspects arrived in their thousands for trial. Even though each case was done in ▶

Maximilien Robespierre

"Popular government in revolution is at one and the same time virtue and terror... Terror is nothing but justice, prompt, severe, inflexible."

ROBESPIERRE, 27th JULY, 1793



Generals were under permanent suspicion

It was dangerous for an army officer to make mistakes. Defeat was interpreted as showing a lack of revolutionary zeal, so when General Dumouriez lost to the Austrians in March 1793, he chose to defect to the Austrian camp.



3

"The Vendée is no more ... Mercy is not a revolutionary sentiment."

General François Westermann



Fouché

4

Federalists refused to obey

When the Girondins were purged in Paris, cities like Lyon, Marseille and Toulon rebelled again. The so-called federalists were led by men who had previously supported the revolution, but turned against the terror regime. French armies besieged the provincial cities one by one and took bloody retribution against the rebels.

Revolutionary commissioner

Fouché permitted the shooting of rebels in Lyon.

TALLANDIER/RUE DES ARCHIVES/POLFO

Paramilitaries came from the slums

The Republic's bloody work was carried out by Parisian street troops. The urban poor formed units that enforced the regime's policy of terror.

The French Revolution's fiercest and most radical group were the sans-culottes, which literally translates as "without breeches". The workers – unlike the middle class and nobility – wore long and baggy trousers, with clogs for footwear.

The sans-culottes comprised artisans, shopkeepers, craftsmen and workmen who, angry at the lack of bread and other food, had helped spark the revolution in July 1789. In Paris, they armed themselves with spears and called for death to all enemies of the revolution.

"The guillotine is hungry, it's ages since she had something to eat", was one of the bloodthirsty group's chants. The sans-culottes were not averse to storming prisons and massacring the inmates if the judiciary was too slow handing out death sentences.

When the revolutionary leaders declared war against half of Europe's monarchies in 1792-1793, many sans-culottes were quick to enlist. Volunteers had the right to elect officers from their own ranks, so neither the men nor their commanders knew anything about warfare. Often units of sans-culottes were better deployed slaughtering French citizens than fighting trained foreign troops.

Revolutionary colours

The French Revolution gave France new colours. Red and blue came from the Paris flag while white symbolised the royal family, which remained after their abolition.

Revolutionary cockade with the three new colours.



Red caps

The so-called Phrygian cap symbolised the hat worn by slaves in ancient Rome when they were released. The colour red went on many revolutionary symbols.

Parisian women often knitted caps while watching the guillotine.



No knee-breeches

Fine gentlemen wore knee-breeches and long socks that weren't suited to hard work. True revolutionaries therefore wore long trousers like France's poor.

Clogs

Leather shoes were a luxury too far for most. The sans-culottes made do with wooden shoes, like the common people.

The sans-culottes were tasked with bending France to the new regime.



a few minutes, with the vast majority found guilty, the process was too slow. Infectious disease spread through the crowded prisons, which gave the unscrupulous Carrier a solution.

He instigated a policy of mass execution without first passing judgement. The fastest and cheapest method was through drowning, which is why the sash-wearing Carrier watched as 100 clergy drowned at the bottom of the Loire one cold November evening. Satisfied with his experiment, Carrier ordered that all prisoners should die this way: Catholics, royalists, nobles and their servants, speculators, even housewives who kept back food for their children instead of giving everything to the army troops.

Clergy were subject to an acutely cruel execution that soldiers dubbed a "Republican wedding". A nun and priest were bound together before being pushed into the water and certain death.

In just four months, the Loire became a mass grave to up to 4,000 people before Carrier was recalled to Paris in February 1794. Even then, the revolutionary troops continued to destroy Vendée – by 1796, around 170,000 people had died.

Even Robespierre had enough

While Carrier carried out his mass murders on the Loire, two other Representatives on Mission were punishing Lyon in the southeast. In November 1793, Joseph Fouché was partnered with Jean-Marie Collot d'Herbois to force France's second largest city into submission.

During the summer, Lyon's revolutionaries had declared their dissatisfaction with Parisian politicians by sending the regime's most faithful supporters to the guillotine, while slamming the gates on messengers from the capital.

The Committee of Public Safety dispatched troops with the two Representatives immediately, with Collot d'Herbois promising that the city's body count would start to rise:

"If you spare the innocent, too many of the guilty will escape", he said firmly. He quickly gained an opportunity to make good on his words. When the two Representatives arrived, Lyon had been

forced to surrender by the army. The enemies of the revolution would receive their just punishment. As in Nantes, executions were performed with trial, but instead of drowning the condemned, Fouché and Collot d'Herbois opted to shoot them.

2,000 of Lyon's citizens died before the pair were satisfied.

"We are causing much impure blood to flow, but it is our duty to do so, it is for humanity's sake", Fouché claimed. "The blood of criminals fertilises the soil of liberty and establishes power on sure foundations".

Despite Robespierre's call for violence and terror, even he was shocked by the bloodbath unfolding in the French provinces. In Spring 1794, he recalled

Carrier, Fouché and the other Representatives to Paris. The men feared for their throats because of Robespierre's reputation, but they saved themselves by working to unseat him.

The Representatives struck back

By summer 1794, support for incessant bloodshed was crumbling, leaving many revolutionaries in turmoil over the carnage they introduced. Everyone now risked finding themselves under the guillotine's blade.

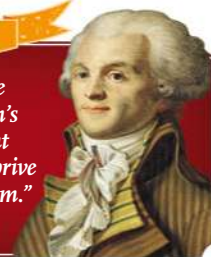
Afraid of Robespierre, Fouché, Collot d'Herbois and many other politicians hatched a plot. The leader of the Committee for Public Safety was arrested, and on the evening of 28th July, it was the fallen tyrant's turn to climb the Paris scaffold. When the executioner lifted Robespierre's severed head, his former allies could breathe a little easier.

Afterwards, Robespierre's accomplices tried to evade responsibility – everything was Robespierre's fault they chorused. But most failed to escape. In September 1794, Jean-Baptiste Carrier

Maximilien Robespierre

"We swear by knives that are blood red from the revolution's martyrs that we will wipe out the criminals who would deprive us of our happiness and freedom."

ROBESPIERRE, 27th JULY, 1793



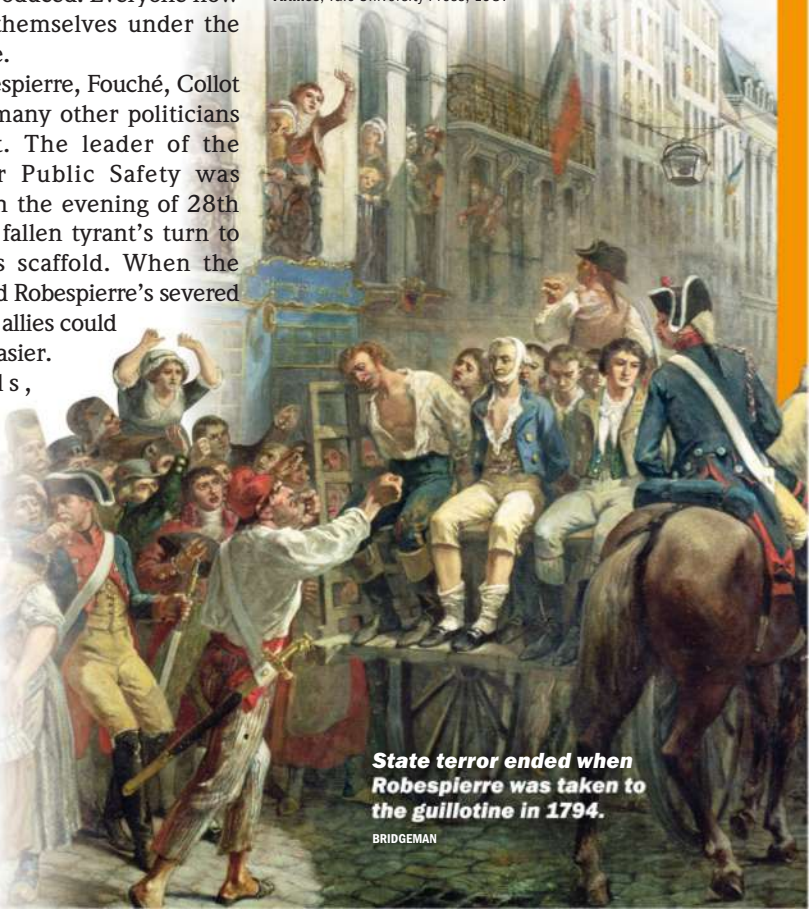
was arrested after surviving prisoners in Nantes shared their horrific testimony.

"I don't know anything about the accusations, I was just passing through", Carrier pleaded in vain. He was convicted of a string of accusations and beheaded on 16th December, 1796. Collot d'Herbois was transported to French Guyana in 1795, where he soon succumbed to yellow fever. However, his colleague, Joseph Fouché, got himself off the hook. No one knew how to tackle the "Butcher of Lyon", and he made himself indispensable to successive French rulers over the following 20 years. He was even useful to the monarchy after it was restored in 1814, despite helping to send Louis XVI to the guillotine back in 1793.

The Reign of Terror in 1793-1794 is believed to have led to the death of up to 500,000 people in total. ■

FURTHER READING

● David Andress: *The Terror – Civil War in the French Revolution*, Abacus, 2006 ● *Correspondence of Jean-Baptiste Carrier*, BiblioBazaar, 2009 ● Richard Cobb: *The People's Armies*, Yale University Press, 1987



State terror ended when Robespierre was taken to the guillotine in 1794.

BRIDGEMAN

France belongs to the people

In 1830, as Parisians deposed King Charles X, the painter Delacroix thrilled: the power is only on loan, and France does not need kings who think they rule “by the grace of God”.

The worker

Employees at Paris' factories wore aprons and pantalons.

Marianne

A sign of liberty in France since the 1700s. She had one of the most common names.

The citizen

A top hat and a long coat was the bourgeois uniform.

ART HISTORIANS DISCUSS whether the citizen with the top hat is a real person or not. Some have suggested that it is artist Delacroix himself, while another theory says that it could be a theatre director or the head of the Louvre museum.



Revolution signs and symbols

When Parisians first took power from the King in 1789, the Tricolor and the Phrygian cap were symbols of freedom, equality and fraternity.

Notre Dame

The famous church had a past as a "Temple of Reason" during the first French Revolution.

The Swiss

The King tried to stop the people using his guard of Swiss mercenaries.

VICTOR HUGO is believed to have used the street boy as inspiration for Gavroche in his book "Les Misérables" in 1862.

BACKGROUND

Delacroix was born during the French Revolution, and as a child experienced both Napoleon's Empire and the return of the old Royal family.

He painted politically dangerous scenes and in 1830 Delacroix supported the July revolution in Paris: "if I can't fight for France, I can at least paint her", he wrote to his brother. Delacroix sold the work to France's new ruler, King Louis-Philippe I who had sworn to govern in the people's name. But the "citizen's King" did not want to be reminded of how fleeting power was and he returned the painting in the 1832.

FACTS

NAME Ferdinand Victor Eugène Delacroix

BORN 1798 in Charenton-Saint-Maurice, France

DEATH 1863 in Paris, France

STYLE He was one of the leading romantic painters of his time, who created emotional, grandiose scenes in bright colours.

SIZE 260 x 325 cm

EXHIBITED Louvre in Paris, France

THE STAGE FOR REBELLION was France and Delacroix was not interested in freedom and civil liberties in other countries. Yet his masterpiece was widely celebrated outside France's borders. In 2012, graffiti artists in Bethlehem recycled the work for a protest against Israel. The Tricolor was replaced by the Palestinian flag and people wore scarves.

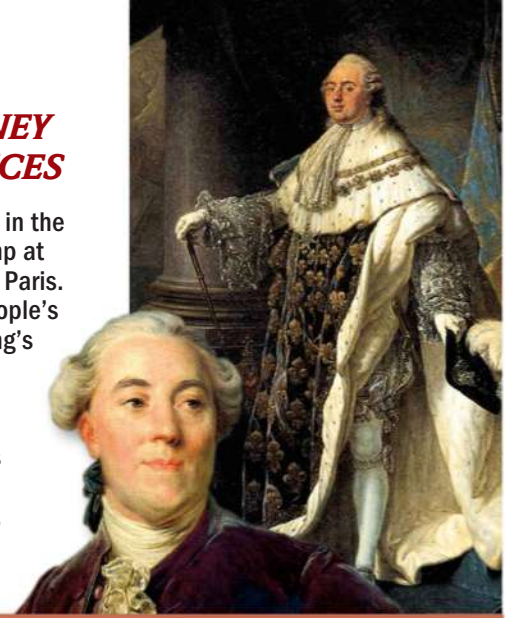


Events of the French Revolution

BY LARS THOMAS *The French Revolution from 1789 to 1799, led to the king's downfall and a reign of terror that shook the whole of Europe with the assault on the Bastille, beheadings by the thousands, freedom, equality and fraternity. Before the revolution the economy in France faltered, mainly due to its participation in the War against the British from 1775 to 1783. War funding was obtained by loans and in the middle of the 1780s, France was on the brink of national bankruptcy. The price of bread rose dramatically.*

A LACK OF MONEY AND RISING PRICES

While rebellion smoulders in the city, Louis XVI lives in pomp at the Palace of Versailles in Paris. The price of bread, the people's main staple, rises. The King's Minister Jacques Necker gathers noblemen, clergy and citizens who make reforms. But the King fires Necker as he thinks the reforms have gone too far.



1788



THE KING FLEES

The royal family tries to flee, but is apprehended by the people and returned to Paris.

BOURGEOISIE SPLIT INTO TWO CAMPS

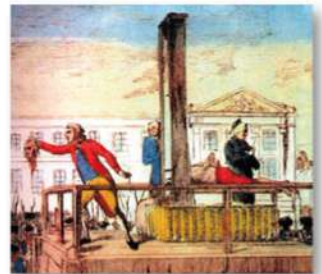
A jumble of political groups form a type of parliament and debate the situation. During a meeting the more politically active commoners such as artisans demand that the King abdicate. But the more affluent citizens, such as shopkeepers, want to keep the King. The Revolution is split between the royalists and the radicals, typically commoners headed by Maximilien Robespierre.

20th June, 1791

17th July, 1791

REPUBLIC OF LIVE HORRORS BEGINS

The new National Convention meets for the first time. The first item is the proclamation of the new Republic and the King is sentenced to death. After several political disturbances, the so-called reign of terror is introduced, where the National Convention's radical wing led by Robespierre takes power and he becomes dictator. Political opponents of the Convention are overthrown.



LOUIS XVI IS BEHEADED

The King is taken to the gallows as he's a threat to the Revolution and many royalists plot a coup. "I die innocent", he says before he is executed.

21st September, 1792

21st January, 1793



THE BASTILLE IS STORMED

The King gathers troops in Paris and Parisians storm the Bastille. It houses a gunpowder warehouse, which will be used for firearms. Citizens are arming themselves and soldiers from the National Guard in Paris, join them. The Revolution has begun and the King does nothing. He is more afraid of being hurt.

14th July, 1789

REVOLT SPREADS ALL OVER THE KINGDOM

The riots in Paris spread to the rest of the country. Many places rise in revolt. Dissatisfied farmers' taxes are greater than the nobles' taxes. To meet the farmers halfway, many of the nobles' privileges are repealed. The people are dissatisfied with the Royal family's extravagance and bad management of the economy. The King will not face up to the problems.



"LET THEM EAT CAKE"

Bread prices continue to rise, and Parisian women demonstrate in front of Versailles. They demand bread. The queen, Marie Antoinette, allegedly said: "If they don't have any bread, let them eat cake". The court is forced to move into Paris.

4th August, 1789

5th October, 1789



A NEW CONSTITUTION

A new constitution is adopted with the King as figurehead.

REVOLUTION AND WAR

The French Revolution arouses unrest in other European royal houses. Austria and Prussia go to war against France, partly to save the French Royal family, partly to play the chaotic situation to their advantage. The war goes back and forth without a result. However, it is revealed that Louis XVI is having secret negotiations with the enemy. The radicals, also known as sans-culottes, are furious at his betrayal of the people.



THE KINGDOM FALLS

The sans-culottes storm the Royal Palace in Paris. The whole family is imprisoned and so the Royal family is abolished.

September, 1791

April, 1792

10th August, 1792

THOSE NOT WITH US ARE AGAINST US

Revolutionary government, led by Robespierre, introduces a law that sees accused people lose the right to defend themselves. Thousands of people are beheaded and executions become a popular entertainment. The masses flock to see the nobility and for example, the Queen, executed. Anyone against the Revolution and its leader suffer the same fate.

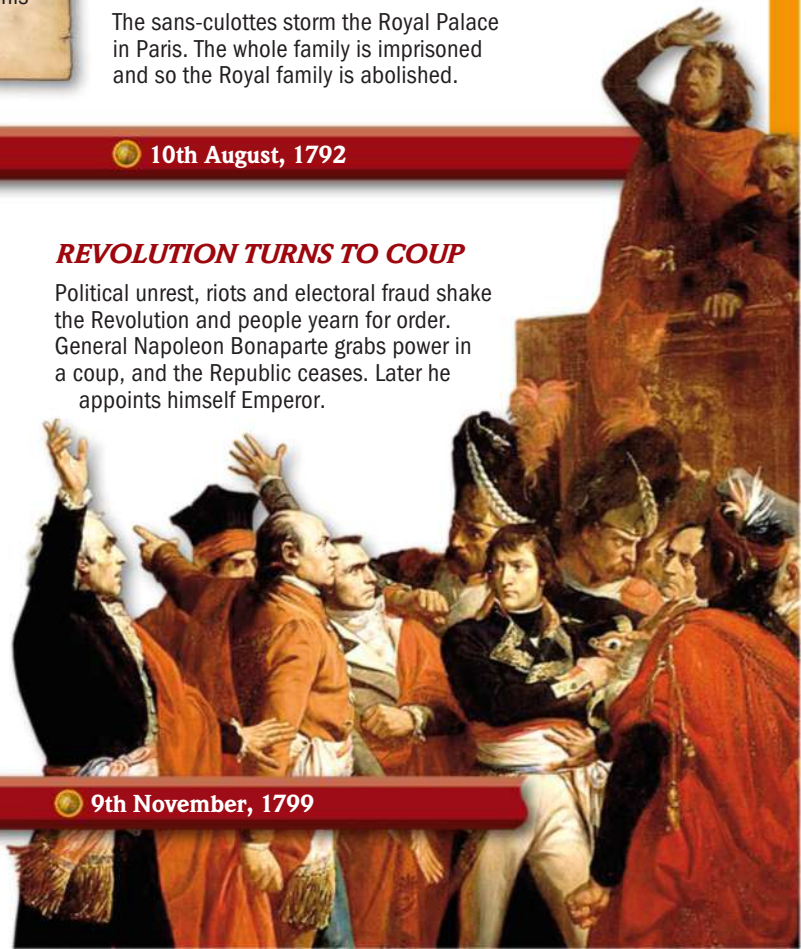


THE END OF TERROR

Robespierre's bloodthirsty regime is stopped by Convention members who get Revolutionary Guards to arrest him. The day after he is taken to the gallows and dies like his victims.

REVOLUTION TURNS TO COUP

Political unrest, riots and electoral fraud shake the Revolution and people yearn for order. General Napoleon Bonaparte grabs power in a coup, and the Republic ceases. Later he appoints himself Emperor.



June, 1794

27th July, 1794

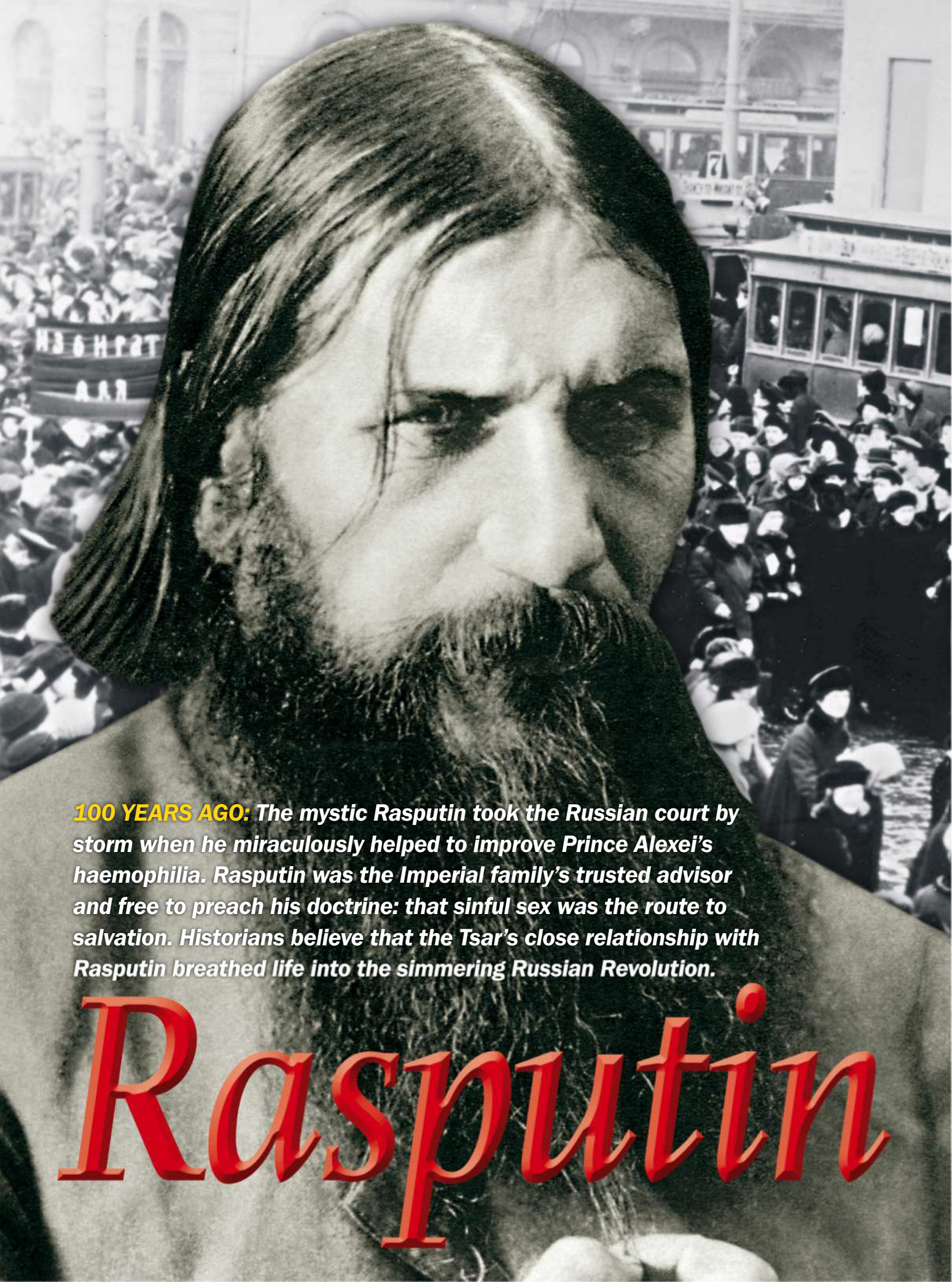
9th November, 1799

RUSSIA

BOLSHEVIKS KILLED TSAR'S FAMILY

The Russian Tsar held absolute power in Russia, while kings across Europe shared power with the people. But in 1917, with people's dissatisfaction at a peak, the Tsar abdicated. The Bolsheviks came to power and the entire Romanov family had to die in order to eliminate any threat to the new regime.





100 YEARS AGO: The mystic Rasputin took the Russian court by storm when he miraculously helped to improve Prince Alexei's haemophilia. Rasputin was the Imperial family's trusted advisor and free to preach his doctrine: that sinful sex was the route to salvation. Historians believe that the Tsar's close relationship with Rasputin breathed life into the simmering Russian Revolution.

Rasputin

In 1917, Russia was in chaos. People needed food and strong leadership. When Nicholas II abdicated, it brought an end to the Tsarist era.

AKG

RUSSIA/1905-1917

Since the beginning of the 1600s, the Russian Empire was ruled by Tsars of the Romanov family. There were huge differences between the immensely rich, upper class of St Petersburg and Moscow and the large, poverty-stricken rural population. Dissatisfaction among the poorer classes was immense.



*set Russia
on fire*

On 2nd January, 1917, The *New York Times* published a modest article entitled "Rasputin, the Tsar's aide, reported murdered". The same rumour had crossed the Atlantic several times before hitting the front page of the US's major newspaper, but this time it was – in contrast to earlier ones – true.

Rasputin's death had little coverage compared to the many articles about the fighting in WWI, which at the time dominated the press. And soon readers' attention was turned to other dramatic events that shook Russia. The 300-year rule under the mighty Romanov family ended in February 1917 with economic collapse and subsequent revolution that forced the autocratic Tsar Nicholas II to abdicate.

Later in the year came a second revolution, which brought the Bolsheviks to power. They demanded a radical redistribution of the nation's land, power and wealth. Observers and reporters of the time were not surprised that Russia experienced such a violent upheaval. Over many years, the Tsar had set both heavy-handed and incompetent rules for

dramatic changes. Several historians believe that one of the seeds that would later result in the Romanov family's demise was sown back in 1903.

A traveller to St Petersburg

In December 1903, a man arrived in St Petersburg by train. He had travelled for a long time. At first glance he looked like any ordinary Russian peasant: long,

*Penetrating eyes
and a special ability
to guess what others
were thinking sent
Rasputin to the heart of
Russian society.*

greasy black hair parted in the middle with intense dark eyes and an unkempt and wild beard that hid his face. The worn grey coat and threadbare trousers over his boots completed the picture: around him hung a mist of stale sweat. However there was one thing that set him apart from all of the others. In

his pocket the traveller carried a letter of introduction from Bishop Andrei to the Tsar's confessor Theofan of Poltava. Theofan introduced him to Milica of Montenegro, who on her turn introduced him to the Imperial couple.

The dirty 34-year-old man was Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin. He was a farmer by birth and had no education, but had gained a reputation for being a holy man. From childhood he had showed a particularly special insight into what people were thinking. He was often able to guess their secrets and found that people were more than willing to confess their sins to him.

No salvation without having sinned

Rasputin had his own interpretation of why it was necessary to sin. Using his penetrating eyes, he convinced people that God would only save those who sincerely repented. But, claimed Rasputin, it was only possible to repent if they had first sinned. And therefore it was important to indulge in all the forbidden pleasures – and not least to tempt themselves with excessive drinking and illicit sexual escapades.

A journalist, who was also an influential man, interviewed villagers in Rasputin's hometown and reported the shameful stories in his newspaper. According to the journalist's articles Rasputin met with his followers in a small room, where he burned incense and herbs while holding each other's hands repeating a single phrase: "the sin of remorse is guilt, O God!"

When the fire died out, Rasputin gave a signal and all his followers threw themselves on the floor taking part in an orgy of communal sexual acts.

Opulence for the few

When Rasputin arrived in St Petersburg in the early 20th century, Russia was not a poor country by any means, but its wealth was distributed pretty unevenly and there was much inequality. Agriculture was still dominant and 80 per cent of the population were farmers who lived with constant hunger. Infant mortality was high and life held few pleasures for ordinary people. When the day's work in the field was done, scant reward awaited them in the form of cheap vodka or from the word of God.

In contrast, at the top of society, unimaginable wealth

*Russia's last
tsar was more
interested in his
family than being
the real leader of
his vast empire.*

ILLUSTRATION BY BILD



Rasputin helped the sick prince

The Tsar and Tsarina were sure that Rasputin's prayers helped their son. But the probable reason for improvement was because he stopped the prince's medication.

Russia's Imperial couple carried a deep secret. Their only son suffered from haemophilia, where any wound was a constant threat as his blood could not clot. When Rasputin met with Nicholas and Alexandra he was allowed to pray for their son. And according to the Imperial couple, his prayers had a miraculous effect.

Since then scientists have debated whether

the improvement was merely wishful thinking. Some have suggested that Rasputin hypnotised the boy; others have rejected this explanation as nonsense.

A newer theory goes that before Rasputin's arrival, Alexei was given a new wonder drug, aspirin. Aspirin alleviates pain, but also thins the blood and is therefore dangerous medicine for haemophiliacs.

Rasputin is known for certain to have told the Tsar and Tsarina that the boy's illness was not as dangerous as it first seemed. The theory is that if he got the Imperial couple to adjust the medication it may in itself have had a beneficial effect on Alexei's condition.

Prince Alexei was the Tsar's only hope of keeping the family's power. Unfortunately, the boy was ill.



AKG

prevailed with much of it transformed into works of art by leading artists, gemstone-studded ornaments and lavish interior decor constructed from marble and gilded with gold leaf.

Russia was unstable. Great poverty combined with a despotic and autocratic Tsarist rule created a breeding ground for discontent and revolutionary movements.

Both rich and poor were preoccupied with religion. For some, God's presence meant that they lived chaste and straight, others cultivated their spiritual side in a more sensual manner, filled with incense, séances and love – Rasputin was not the only one to make sin a path to salvation.

The Tsar didn't know his people

The country's absolute leader, Tsar Nicholas II, was an indecisive and gentle man who was particularly absorbed with his immediate family. He had no strategic skills and politics did not interest him much at all. The Tsar was so withdrawn from his people that he was totally unaware of who he ruled over. And he lost any sympathy for the position which his father's death had afforded him as he was unable to understand what the people and the country needed. His reign also had a poor start, as several spectators were trampled to death during the magnificent coronation procession. Superstitious

Russians interpreted the incident as a sinister portent of the future.

His Tsarina Alexandra was a German princess by birth and just as awkward and out of touch with Russian reality as her husband. The two enjoyed a happy marriage in their opulent palaces and at

various intervals after 1895, the Tsarina gave birth to four daughters.

When Alexandra finally gave birth to a son on 31st July, 1904, the whole family cheered as they finally had an heir to the throne. The joy was short-lived. At just one month old, Alexei started bleeding from his belly button and it took a while to stop. When he grew up and began to crawl, he was constantly getting scratched. Where other children bruised, the little heir experienced a hematoma – a large blood-filled mass that pressed against his joints causing unbearable pain. Alexei was bleeding internally. His mother Alexandra was without knowing it, carrying the hereditary disease, haemophilia – and she had passed the disease to her son.

The Imperial family kept the terrible disease a secret from all but those in their closest circle as political unrest meant it was critical that no one questioned whether the Tsar's family had an heir to the throne.



ULLSTEIN BILD

Rasputin married very young and had three children before he left his home in Siberia.

Farm boy was welcome at court

Rasputin was a farmer's son, so it was highly unusual in contemporary Russia that he should meddle with God and the affairs of state. But a three-month stay in a convent when he was 18 set him on a religious path that led him to the Tsar's court. Malicious gossip claimed that Rasputin originally went into the monastery to escape an accusation of theft.

From farm to court

Upon arrival in St Petersburg in 1903 Rasputin was in contact with the Tsar's circle. With the introduction letter to the Tsar's confessor, Theofan, Rasputin was granted access to the city's nobility – and in particular the female members of that aristocracy.

The nobility was experimenting with religion along with the rest of the population. Many high society women passed time with religious rites – ►

often with sexual undertones. In this company, Rasputin quickly gained followers and his reputation grew when he managed to talk a woman out of a depression. His teaching was still that sin was the direct way to salvation and he was even ready to help the ladies with their sins. He retained his boorish exterior, as both his followers and priests of the Russian upper class figured his unkempt appearance was a sign that he was unspoiled and thus close to God.

Not everyone appreciated Rasputin and his activities. Some were outraged because he kissed on the mouth and not the cheek and used strong language. When he spoke openly about his sins, it attracted female followers rather than frightened them.

Rasputin was also accused in several cases of sexual violence, including an assault on a nun. However, no one could prove anything, so the accusations were dropped.

Holy man won Tsar couple's trust

Rasputin had already met the Imperial couple by November 1905, but it wasn't until the following year that the contact between them became more intimate. In the beginning the mystic was simply allowed to pray for the little heir to the throne, but miraculously it seemed as if his prayers worked.

Thus he not only won the imperial couple's immense gratitude, but

eventually also their full trust – a trust that also extended to political issues. Rasputin claimed that he knew the will of God. And with the apparent success in the alleviation of Alexei's pain, the gullible couple believed him to be right.

Nicholas was defeated

During the year, the Tsar was weakened as never before. He had experienced an ignominious defeat against the Japanese. Russia had been totally unprepared when Japan attacked in 1904, and was soundly beaten in the war, which had broken out because of the Tsar's childish resentment of the Japanese – he had been attacked when he visited the country. Because of this, Tsar

The Tsar made a greater impact than ever before: first with a defeat in the war against Japan and then strikes and mutiny in Russia itself.

Nicholas ignored the many warnings and refused to take Japan's military strength seriously.

After the defeat, Russia accepted a humiliating peace treaty that gave Nicholas problems within his empire.

Many of the Tsar's enemies in Russia saw new opportunities to remove him. The turmoil in Russia raged on.

The event that triggered the first Russian Revolution was a peaceful demonstration. On a cold Sunday in January 1905, a procession of ordinary citizens headed to the Winter Palace with a petition for bread. But security police miscalculated the situation completely and mowed the demonstrators down. More than 100 were killed on the streets before the shooting stopped and over three times this number were wounded.

Russia attempts democracy

The massacre was a signal for strikes and mutiny. When the Governor General of Moscow was killed by insurgents, Nicholas reluctantly made some concessions. He agreed to form a parliament, called the Duma, which had to approve laws and provide oversight of the administration. For the first time, Russian citizens had a little democracy.

But the first parliament sessions in the Duma were forcibly dissolved and the population rapidly lost confidence in the Government. Conservative forces, which included citizens and the richest farmers, began simultaneously to terrorise the groups on their hate list: liberals and Jews. And the political situation became more unstable because the wider public weren't represented.



Rasputin or "holy devil" as he was also called, was hated in wider circles. But Rasputin had – as shown in the picture – too many admirers, especially among upper-class women. They were supposedly attracted to his alleged direct connection to God.

The situation worsened when Germany and Austro-Hungary triggered The Great War in 1914. Russia joined the war in alliance with England and France against the Germans.

In the first weeks of WWI, the Germans were busy on the western flank and the Russian Army were able to advance quickly. But the fortunes of war turned just as swiftly; Russians were forced back, and by August 1915 they had lost control of Poland. Although the Russians had opportunities to win several battles, lack of supplies and ammunition meant that they surrendered instead to escape hunger. Other soldiers threw down their arms and rushed home to their starving families.

Rasputin's power grew

While Russia shook with unrest, the war and demands for change, Rasputin's power increased. "The holy devil" slept with many people. Those who complained about Rasputin were frozen out by the Tsar's family. A newspaper editor who described Rasputin as a "destroyer of bodies and souls", was arrested and his editorial offices and equipment were confiscated. Even the Tsar's most trusted officer lost face as he witnessed Rasputin's sexual and alcoholic excesses and tried to point out that his behaviour was damaging the Tsar's reputation. Nicholas would not part with the monk, because in his eyes Rasputin was responsible for the Tsarevich's improved health.

The Tsarina was already unpopular because of her reserved nature and as she was German by birth, she also felt the population's distrust after the outbreak of the war. Meanwhile, Rasputin felt sure of the Tsarina's protection, and believed she was utterly indifferent to the scandals. One such incident took place at a nightclub in Moscow. Rasputin had been drinking heavily before he arrived. When he made a pass at a woman who rejected his advances, he became angry and began breaking glasses and mirrors. Rasputin also boasted of having seduced the Tsarina, after which he exposed himself and made obscene gestures in the middle of the nightclub.

The incident had no repercussions. Instead, Rasputin was summoned to Nicholas as his trusted advisor. The Tsar had received a telegram saying that the army's supplies would not last more than three days. Rasputin ►



AKG

A revolution in three acts

100 years ago, the last part of the Russian Revolution was complete, but before Lenin took power, the country went through several bloody uprisings and transfers of power.

• 1905

One Sunday in January 1905, peaceful demonstrators in St Petersburg were brutally mowed down. For first time, the Tsar had to concede some of his absolute power to a newly created parliament, the Duma.



BRIDGEMAN

• February 1917

In early 1917, following, strikes, demonstrations, hunger and soldiers who deserted in droves, all confidence in the Tsar's regime had gone – even after Rasputin had been removed. The people demanded the Tsar's departure and as he relinquished power, soldiers joined the rioters. The Tsar attempted to abdicate in favour of his brother, but Grand Duke Michael refused and the Romanovs lost power after 300 years ruling Russia.

• October 1917

Russia had a provisional government, but the Communist leader Lenin returned to Russia in April to challenge it. In October (November according to the Gregorian calendar) his people seized power by storming the Winter Palace where the new government sat. Over the next few years Lenin and the Communist Party took control of the vast Empire.



AKG



CORBIS

Lenin's Bolsheviks took power by storming the Winter Palace in St Petersburg, where the government sat.

calmed the nervous Tsar: he believed that the telegram was a lie and that an army commander had written it to create panic. Unfortunately, the telegram was absolutely correct and Rasputin's advice resulted in army supplies not being replenished. The bad advice did not weaken Nicholas's trust in him. After a year of warfare with many defeats Rasputin advised the Tsar to take over command of the entire army. Considering the Tsar's lack of experience and tactical acumen, the decision was disastrous.

The war was, if possible, an even greater nightmare with Nicholas in command at the Front. The rest of the Empire's administration was now left to Alexandra and the increasingly uncontrollable Rasputin.

Rasputin pocketed money

The Tsar steered inexorably towards his doom as the family's standing was undermined by the fact that it had put its trust in Rasputin, a simple farmer's son. In the first year of the war, rumours spread that Rasputin passed on state secrets to the

Germans. Stories spread that any favour, promotion or dismissal was influenced by Rasputin and that he took bribes.

Criticism of Rasputin's power grew and in a last desperate attempt to avoid ultimate catastrophe, a small group of conservative noblemen were stirred to action. Rasputin had to die – and it needed to be soon.

Death in the basement

One of the Tsar's own relatives was responsible for carrying out the assassination. Prince Felix Yusupov was a young nobleman, husband of Nicholas's niece and with a military career behind him. He was by no means interested in politics and lived an easy and lavish life in his palace in St Petersburg. But he was in agreement with those strong conservative forces that feared for society's stability if the Tsar's crumbling authority was undermined any further.

During the evening of 16th December, 1916, Yusupov sent a message to Rasputin asking for help. The mystic suspected nothing, so dressed neatly and left to tend him. Upon arrival at Yusupov's mansion Rasputin was invited to dinner in the basement, where he was regaled with sweet wine and cakes. According to some sources, the entire refreshments were poisoned, but Rasputin didn't appear to have been affected by the strong poison. Maybe he



Rasputin's murderer claimed damages

After the murder of Rasputin, Prince Yusupov fell out of favour with the Tsar, and he was banished from St Petersburg. After the revolution, he fled from Russia with his wife and child. He brought with him Rembrandt paintings and gems and headed for Paris. In the 1930s, Yusupov brought action against an American film company when a film claimed that the reason for the murder was that Rasputin had raped

Yusupov's wife. The pair was awarded the enormous sum of \$25,000 for the offending allegations.

Yusupov usually dressed in a suit, but here he's photographed in Russian dress.

AKG

was just drunk from the wine. In any case, he was sufficiently weakened that the conspirators could make him an ultimatum: either Rasputin would shoot himself, or he would be killed.

Rasputin refused to commit suicide, after which the conspirators shot him. Unfortunately for them Rasputin didn't die, but injured as he was, he managed to escape through the garden. The assassins had to finish the job that they finally succeeded in doing. Rasputin was captured and finally killed, rolled in a blanket and thrown in the river Neva in the hope that he would disappear forever. However, his body washed up on the shore a few days later.

Revolution broke out

Rasputin's death came too late to save the Imperial family's reputation. Winter, war and political hopelessness strengthened the rebel forces.

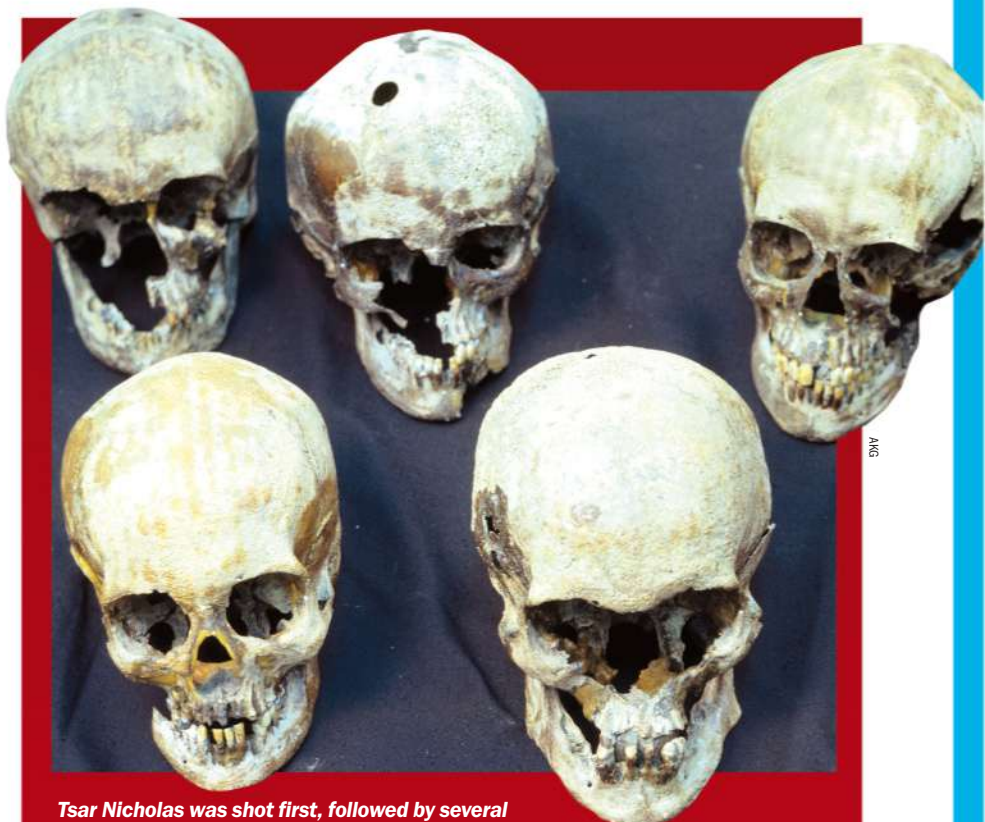
At beginning of 1917, there was an acute shortage of bread in St Petersburg which encouraged the workers to take to the streets in protest. Soldiers were ordered to fire on the rebellious citizens but the soldiers refused and instead went over to the rebels. Without an army, Tsar Nicholas could not remain in power and he abdicated on 15th March. He initially abdicated in favour of his brother, but Grand Duke Michael refused to take on the role.

After the Tsar's departure, a temporary Provisional Government was formed. At the same time, Russia's major cities fell under the control of so-called Soviets – councils with representatives of workers and soldiers. This gave rise to two parallel power systems in the country – while chaos ruled.

Rebel leader Lenin was able to exploit the situation. For 10 years he had lived in exile in Switzerland, but following the Tsar's abdication he travelled back to Russia and took over the unfinished Revolution. Lenin organized a takeover by the Soviets and in November 1917 arrested the entire government. After years of civil war and power struggle in Russia, Soviet communism became a reality in 1922: a huge state that lasted for 69 years until 1991. ■

FURTHER READING

● Brian Moynahan: *Rasputin, The saint who sinned*, Da Capo Press, 1999 ● Andrew Cook: *To kill Rasputin, The Life and Death of Grigori Rasputin*, Tempus, 2005



Tsar Nicholas was shot first, followed by several servants, the Tsarina and finally the children. The remains of the Romanovs were found in 2007.

Tsar's body disappeared

In July 1918, the Tsar's family were executed in the house where they were held. Their remains were not found until 60 years later.

The Tsar's family survived the initial bloody revolution in 1917, although Nicholas had to step down from power and in March the family was placed under house arrest in a mansion in Tobolsk in the Urals. They tended the vegetable garden and the Tsar chopped wood – one way of living which seemed to suit him well. The family never left Russia as the British refused them asylum. Both the Tsar and Tsarina were his relatives, but George V was alarmed their presence would provoke dissent among the British working class.

After the Bolshevik revolution, the family was moved to the town of Yekaterinburg. They were here in July 1918 when they were led to the basement and partly shot in the head and partly stabbed with bayonets. After the executions, the bodies

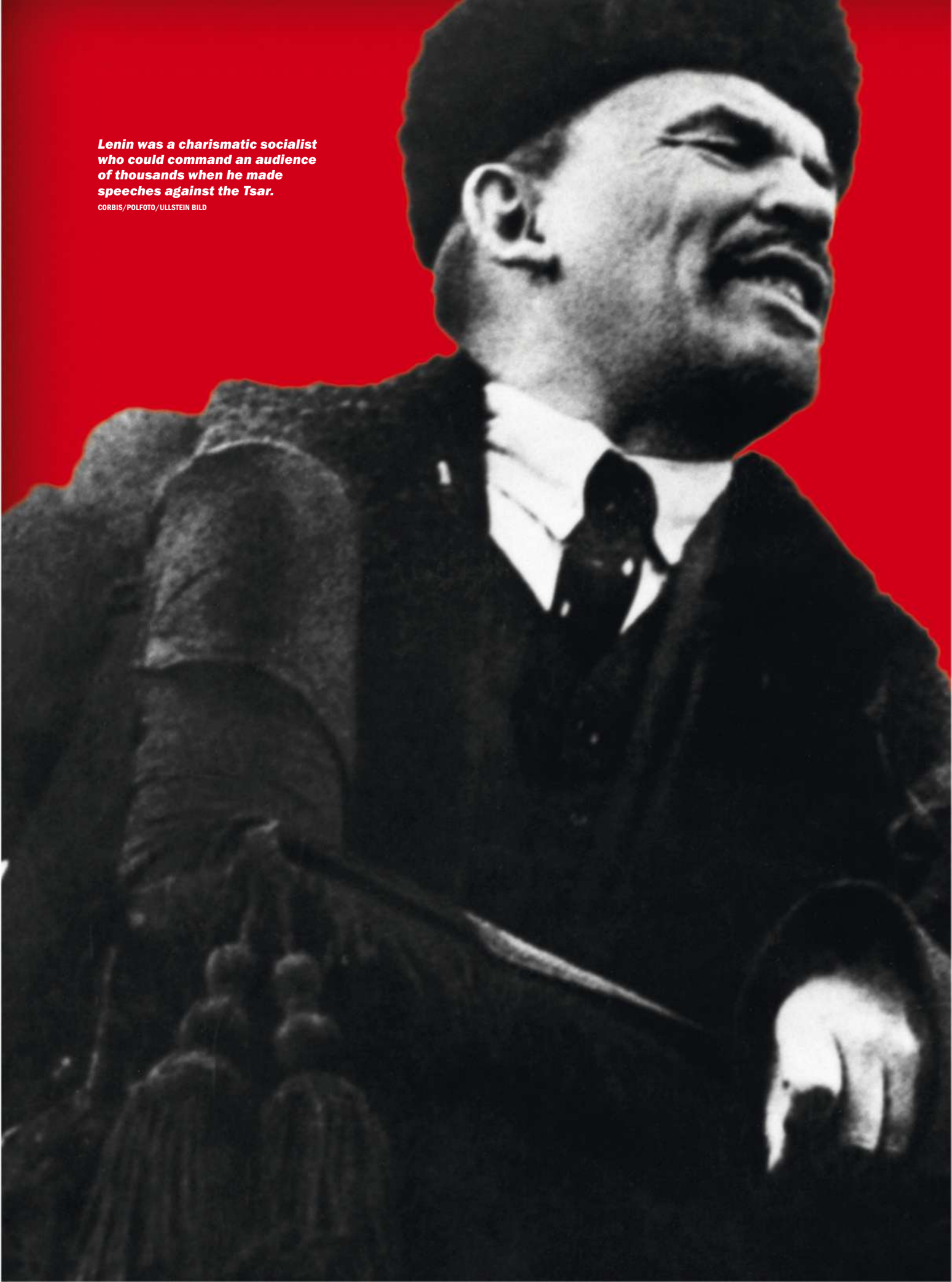
were first stripped, mauled and then dumped in a mass grave in the forest.

In 1979, by means of previously secret documents, most of the Tsar's family skeletons were found, but the discovery was kept hidden. Only after the fall of the USSR were the remains of Nicholas, Alexandra and three of the children identified by a comparison of DNA material from living relatives.

10 years ago, Russian archaeologists found the remains of two further skeletons in an area near Yekaterinburg. In 2009, US and Russian DNA experts concluded that the bones came from the Tsar's children. One was a boy, and thus certainly the Tsarevich Alexei, while the other bones belonged to another princess. All of the remains of those executed have now been found.

Lenin was a charismatic socialist who could command an audience of thousands when he made speeches against the Tsar.

CORBIS/POLFOTO/ULLSTEIN BILD



The German Kaiser helped

LENIN

to power

The October Revolution of 1917 was one of Russia's most important historical events and Vladimir Lenin was hailed as a hero who single-handedly saved Russia. But without the German Kaiser's economic support, revolution was never on the cards.

Russia/1915

For decades, the poor went up against the Tsar, but all demonstrations are knocked back with a firm hand. Russia's participation in WWI has only increased people's hatred of the Tsar, but from his exile in Switzerland, socialist Lenin gathered together numerous opposition groups to fight against him.



The big black locomotive crawled into the station in Petrograd – now St Petersburg. With a sigh, the train stopped enveloping those waiting on the platform in a cloud of steam. Even though it was past midnight, thousands of people showed up, stretching their necks to see the passengers carefully climb down from the carriages and onto the platform.

Few knew what the man they were waiting for looked like. But from the interest around one of the passengers, a small man with thinning red hair and beard, they figured that must be him: Vladimir Lenin – the man who had promised to abolish the Tsar's regime and transfer power to the common man once and for all. Admirably, they

flocked around him as he talked to them warmly about the revolution. The speech was followed by cheers and applause, but the more experienced among them shook their heads. They argued that Lenin had been in exile for 10 years and was out of touch with reality. For decades, the Socialists had unsuccessfully tried to overthrow the Tsar.

Following WWI, the revolution's complement of capable fighters was drained. April 1917 held no clue that a social upheaval in Russia was imminent.

But Lenin was right. Less than a year later he had completed the revolution,



Tsar Nicholas II and Kaiser Wilhelm II were second cousins. Their friendship fell apart with the outbreak of WWI.

CORBIS/POLETO

LENIN HARBOURED A PERSONAL HATRED FOR THE RUSSIAN TSAR

An unsuccessful assassination attempt led to the Bolshevik leader's intransigent resistance to Tsar Nicholas II.

Vladimir Ulyanov came from a wealthy Russian family – his father was so highly valued in the community

that he was admitted to the nobility. But in 1887, Vladimir's older brother Alexander was caught planning an attack against the Tsar and hanged. The family was deported and convicted of treason and Vladimir was expelled from the university where he studied law. He threw himself into Karl Marx's writings and developed an intense hatred of the Tsar. He began using the alias, Lenin in 1901. Previously, he had been in prison and lived in exile because of his revolutionary activities. The years 1900-1917 were spent in Western Europe, where he continued the struggle against Tsarism until the German Kaiser financed Lenin's Revolution in 1917. Lenin was head of the newly formed Soviet Union until his death in 1924, when Joseph Stalin took power.

abolished Tsarism and taken Russia out of the war. At the same time, he had laid the foundations for a state that was one of the century's most powerful.

Documents from British, Swiss and Swedish intelligence services, the Prussian police, the German Foreign Ministry and Russian archives reveal that during the period 1915-1918, the German Kaiser Wilhelm II supported Lenin and his allies with more than 26 million marks, about £55 million in today's money. Historians believe that without the German Kaiser's money and other aid in the form of explosives and transport the revolution could never have taken place.

The odd couple

Outwardly the alliance looked unlikely. Lenin was a socialist fiercely opposed anything that smacked of monarchy or inherited privilege and rights, which would have disgusted the Kaiser. In addition to this, the German Kaiser was the cousin of Lenin's arch-enemy, Russian Tsar Nicholas II.

In fact, Lenin and the German Kaiser had a strong common interest in removing the Tsar from power. For Lenin, the Tsar stood in the way of the establishment of a socialist republic. For Kaiser Wilhelm, the problem was more urgent: his ambitious goals for WWI included a number of Russian border states in a future Greater Germany. But the Tsar had formed an alliance with Britain and France and now Wilhelm was caught in the middle of a brutal war on two fronts. To encourage Russia to pull out of the war so that he could concentrate on the Western Front, Wilhelm had taken a different approach. He had to overthrow the Tsar from the inside.

The Kaiser's plan was long-winded, but not completely unrealistic. Since the



 Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (born Ulyanov)
1870-1924

MAIN CHARACTER

OBJECTIVE: to overthrow the Tsar and introduce Socialist rule across Russia.

BRIDGEMAN

On the third anniversary of the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks rebuilt the Winter Palace. The reconstruction attracted 100,000 spectators and among the performers were 125 ballet dancers and 100 circus artists.

CORBIS/POLFO

late 1800s, the Russian population had become increasingly dissatisfied with the autocratic Tsar. In the countryside, peasants starved. In the cities, workers lived in poverty and despair, working of up to 11.5 hours a day for a wage that could hardly pay the rent.

Strikes and unions were strictly prohibited and basic democratic rights did not exist. People's dissatisfaction culminated on 22nd January, 1905, when a peaceful demonstration in front of the Tsar's residence, the Winter Palace in Petrograd, ended in a massacre of the unarmed crowd. The incident sparked several years of demonstrations and riots. In 1912, striking miners were mown down by Tsarist troops. About 200 died and many were shot as they tried to crawl for cover.

The leader arises

WWI sent thousands of young Russians to their death and reinforced the Tsar's unpopularity, but two factors prevented opposition from being effective: the Tsar's harsh repression of political opponents and division among his opponents – not only between socialists and liberal democrats, but also within individual factions. Here Kaiser Wilhelm and the German government saw an

opportunity. If they could help Lenin to gather and mobilise people's anger against the Tsar, the ruler's days would be numbered and a peace settlement within grasp.

The solution was almost literally served to the Germans on a silver platter. When the war became bloody in the winter of 1914-1915 and diplomats were pulling out their hair to find a way out, a letter landed at the German Foreign Ministry. The message was from Alexander Helphand, a Russian socialist who had been forced into exile after the riots in 1905. Helphand offered

nothing less than a complete road map for the revolution and Russia's withdrawal from the war: first the socialists start a strike. The strike would lead to revolutionary activity with violent riots and sabotage, making society ungovernable and war would become impossible – especially if roads and bridges in the cities and towards the Front were destroyed. While society disintegrated, the Socialists would seize control, forcing the Tsar from his seat of power and would then make peace with the Germans. All Helphand needed was plenty of money, some explosives and German cooperation.

The Germans were immediately sceptical. The Foreign Ministry was already overrun with people who claimed that for the right amount of money they could create a mutiny within the Black Sea fleet, rebellion among Ukrainian peasants or mass demonstrations in Petrograd. So far nothing had come to fruition, but

Helphand had a trump card up his sleeve – as the first and most important part of the plan, the Germans would provide "financial support for the Social Democratic Russian majority faction. The leader can be found in ▶

Copenhagen profited from the war

Denmark's neutrality during WWI and its attractive location on the Baltic Sea made Copenhagen an obvious headquarters for people who wanted to earn quick money from the warring parties: a particularly profitable and secure line were sales of canned goods to the German Army. The contents were mainly goulash and the people that sold it were nicknamed "profiteers". The meat was of dubious quality, and its provenance wasn't certain – for example, in 1915, a great trader who went by the name

"Berliner-Nielsen" bought three buffaloes from the zoo and sold them to a cannery.

Due to shortages, the nouveau riche could not buy luxury goods, so many turned to the stock market. Also in the city's restaurants and cafés were the signs of newfound wealth: champagne flowed all night long and in the areas along the coast north of Copenhagen large, showy villas began appearing.

Canned food was in such demand that producers did not always make labels.

SHUTTERSTOCK





*Before the revolution
Lenin spent years in
exile in Europe.*

CORBIS/POLFO



*All over Russian cities
there were demonstrations and riots
against the Provisional Government
introduced in March 1917.*

Bern", Helphand wrote. The "Russian majority faction" was the Bolsheviks, and their leader was Lenin. The name Bolshevik – "majority" in Russian – was highly misleading, for Lenin's faction represented only a minority of Russia's socialist opposition. For Germany, the Bolsheviks and Lenin were an attractive proposition as unlike many other Tsarist opponents, they wanted to end the war as soon as possible.

Helphand knew Lenin from the past and at one time had the printing press used to print Lenin's socialist writings standing in his apartment. Lenin, like Helphand lived in exile in Europe, where he had made a name for himself as one of Socialism's leading thinkers. His personal enthusiasm and stubbornness gave Lenin great impact

and the offer of contact with the combative Bolshevik encouraged the Germans to look at Helphand's proposal with genuine interest.

Arms dealer from Constantinople

In May 1915, with the German Foreign Ministry's blessing Helphand packed his suitcase and travelled to Bern in Switzerland, where he showed up at Lenin's regular restaurant and was invited home to Lenin's to discuss the situation in a more private setting.

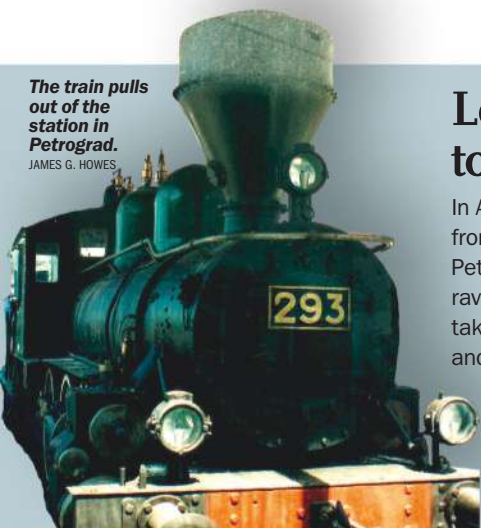
Both subsequently claimed that nothing came of the meeting. Despite his revolutionary sentiment, Helphand had a dodgy reputation among other socialists. During his exile, the educated economist had – among other things – made a living as an arms dealer in Constantinople and was known for his

flamboyant lifestyle and excessive consumption of expensive wine, big cigars and blond women. Lenin had good reason to say no thanks and by his own admission, that's what he did. After calling Helphand a "German socialist chauvinist" Lenin showed him the door. The jilted Helphand slunk off "with his tail between his legs", Lenin later recounted.

Even though Lenin gave him the cold shoulder, Helphand managed to acquire contacts among other prominent Bolsheviks, suggesting that Helphand's visit to Bern was not entirely in vain.

Shortly after, money, weapons and explosives were flown from Germany into Russia via the neutral Danish capital. In the early war years, Copenhagen was a popular spot for businessmen, investors and black market dealers who all tried to use the war for personal gain. Like many traders, Helphand ended up selling all sorts of commodities to the warring nations: precious metals, used cars, fishing boats, cognac, condoms and

*The train pulls
out of the
station in
Petrograd.*
JAMES G. HOWES

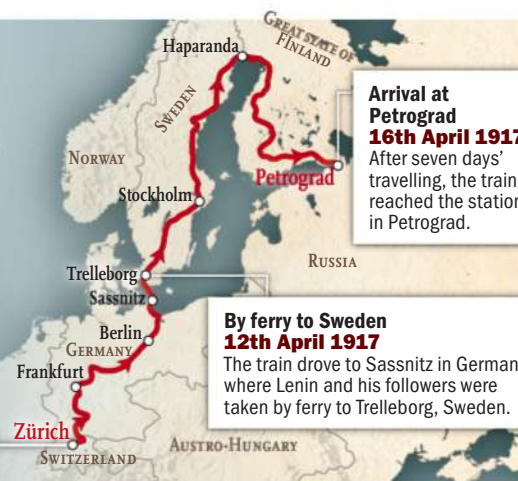


Lenin's secret return to Russia

In April 1917, it was time for Lenin to return from exile in Switzerland and home to Petrograd in Russia. Due to the war that ravaged most of Europe, the journey had to take place in a secluded train in which Lenin and his 31-strong entourage were crammed into a single carriage. The journey took a total of seven days.

The journey began in Zurich 9th April 1917

Lenin, his family and his followers were put on the train and sent through the war-torn Europe.



**Arrival at
Petrograd
16th April 1917**
After seven days' travelling, the train reached the station in Petrograd.

By ferry to Sweden 12th April 1917

The train drove to Sassnitz in Germany, where Lenin and his followers were taken by ferry to Trelleborg, Sweden.

drugs were among the goods that flowed in a steady stream through Copenhagen to the US, Britain, France and Russia. Helphand's employee, Polish immigrant Jacob Hanecki – an active socialist who had also known Lenin for years – was his bookkeeper and many of their trades were real enough, but not all transactions were so easy to figure out. Large amounts were transferred without mentioning which products were included in the deal and historians reckon that the money went to purchase arms or as money transfers to the Bolsheviks.

Documents in the German Foreign Ministry archives show that in late 1915, Helphand asked for 20 million roubles – equivalent to about £20 million today. For this amount he promised a complete revolution in Russia. A few days after, he received the first payment of a million roubles. The Revolution could begin.

The journey through hell

Initially, the money funded propaganda writings and posters. Also, strike committees were given an injection of capital so the Bolsheviks could maintain pressure on the country's economy.

Initial results were disappointing. Only some places broke out on strike and the Tsar still clung to power. But slowly the German-funded propaganda began to take effect. Soldiers deserted and turmoil spread throughout the cities. The strikes and demonstrations became more frequent until in March 1917, when Russia found itself on the brink of breakdown. Even the soldiers who the Tsar sent to quell the rebellion, walked away. Instead of shooting at the demonstrators, they lowered their guns and switched sides. The rebels deposed the Tsar and appointed an interim government composed of liberal forces from the legislature, the Duma.

Lenin's moment had come but the Bolshevik leader was hopelessly stuck in Bern. Between him and Russia was Germany and as a Russian, he might regard Germany as the enemy. At the same time, Russia's allies France and Britain banned him entry because they (correctly) suspected that Lenin intended to pull Russia out of the war.

For the Germans, the situation was critical. If Lenin was not back in time, other forces and groups that did not want to make peace with Germany

would seize power. The Kaiser's opportunity – and millions of good German marks – would be wasted. Lenin was strongly committed to make the journey, regardless of whether it involved German help.

"We will have to travel. Even if we go through hell", he announced excitedly to his closest allies. Documents in the German Foreign Ministry reveal how Helphand found a solution with German help: Lenin should be put on a train exclusively for him and his entourage, consisting of 31 family members, friends and employees. The train would run through Germany, and then the group would leave for Sweden by ferry with the train, continuing through Russian-controlled Finland to Petrograd. The whole movement should be kept secret, but with a way to explain it away

if something were to leak out. So, the Germans invited a number of other exiled Russians onto the train. The idea was that it should be "special transport for Russians wanting to return to the fatherland".

Lenin imposed several conditions: "The wagons must have extraterritorial rights. Neither passport nor people must be checked", he demanded. He also signed an agreement with the Germans that they would provide his party with food and drink all the way.

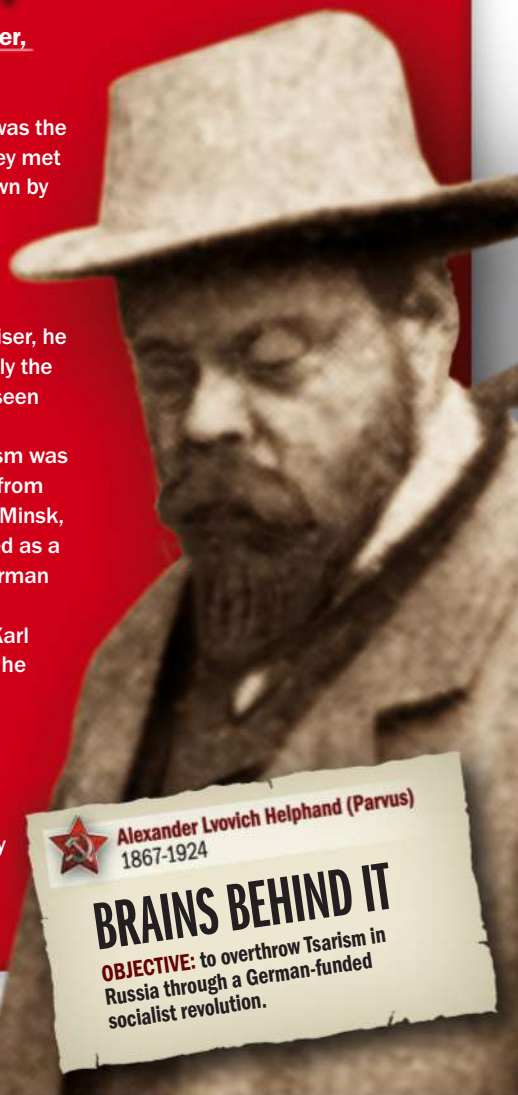
The journey began on 9th April, 1917 and lasted seven long demanding days. The space was cramped, food scarce and people were getting on each others' nerves. Lenin, who was busy writing revolutionary speeches, complained about the sometimes boisterous company. After three days ►

SOCIALISTS' BLACK SHEEP SOURCED MONEY

The man who helped Lenin to power, was subsequently ignored.

His huge head and corpulent body was the first thing people noticed when they met Alexander Helphand. He was also known by the alias 'Parvus' – "little" in Russian – humour that played on his physical size. Helphand's lifestyle was excessive: in the years as a go-between for Lenin and the German Kaiser, he only lived in the finest hotels, drank only the most expensive wines and was rarely seen without a big cigar in his mouth.

However, Helphand's faith in socialism was genuine and heartfelt. It followed him from childhood in his middle-class home in Minsk, Belarus, to Germany, where he travelled as a young newly graduated economist. German socialists were excited by Helphand's writings and hailed him as "the other Karl Marx". In the years leading up to WWI, he settled as an arms dealer in Constantinople. Although Lenin could use Helphand's help during the revolution, the Bolsheviks' leader deliberately tried not to be seen with him. Helphand had unsuccessfully attempted to gain government posts or other gratuities from Lenin after the revolution.



Alexander Lvovich Helphand (Parvus)
1867-1924

BRAINS BEHIND IT

OBJECTIVE: to overthrow Tsarism in Russia through a German-funded socialist revolution.

travelling, Lenin and his followers enjoyed a welcome break in the journey as the ferry sailed from Sassnitz in Germany to Trelleborg in Sweden. Here, they were greeted with a large buffet. The host was none other than Jacob Hanecki, Helphand's bookkeeper. While the rest of the party ate, Hanecki and Lenin discussed developments in Russia. Four days later, Lenin arrived at the station in Petrograd.

Lenin the traitor

Officially, Lenin justified the Germans' help by saying, "If German capitalists are so stupid to help us return to Russia, they are digging their own grave". The Germans however, saw it completely differently.

"Lenin's entry into Russia was a success. It worked out as we wanted", the German intelligence service in

Stockholm wrote to the General Staff in Berlin shortly after the leader's arrival in Petrograd. The Germans had good reason to be satisfied with Lenin, who immediately began making inflammatory speeches against the one-month-old Provisional Government.

"The new government does not deserve to be spared any more than the old one. Fully in line with its capitalist nature the same predatory imperialist war continues", he thundered. The Germans congratulated themselves.

"Lenin's propaganda is the kind that has been shown to have the greatest effect on the masses", said a progress report to the German government on 5th July, 1917.

Now the Provisional Government saw Lenin as a rival and therefore tried to get him sidelined. In this context, Lenin's ties to Germany were helpful.

Despite Lenin and the German authorities' intentions, they had not managed to keep the connection hidden. On Lenin's departure from Switzerland, a group of about 100 angry Russians turned up on the platform shouting "pigs", "provocateur" and "Wilhelm paid for your journey". At the station, Lenin's followers tried to drown out the angry exchanges by singing the "Internationale" anthem.

In the summer of 1917, the Provisional Government worked under high pressure to prove the connection and so be able to judge Lenin for treason. Witnesses were summoned and interrogated and more intrusive data came out. In front of Lenin's headquarters, a witness revealed that he handed his people money while signs with inscriptions like "Down with the Provisional Government" and "Down with Capital" were free to collect. The name Jacob Hanecki appeared again and again, but despite intense investigations on the part of the Russian authorities, economic transactions between Germany and the Bolsheviks could not be proved.

October Revolution

Meanwhile, WWI against the Russians continued. From July 1917, German forces had forged ahead and on 3rd September, 1917 they captured Riga, Latvia's capital, just a few hundred kilometres from Petrograd. Germany's military leaders celebrated, but officials in the German Foreign Ministry were in no doubt that the success was equally due to the assistance they gave Lenin.

At the same time, the Bolsheviks' progress was evident in the Russian streets, in the countryside and on the Front. Soldiers deserted. Workers took over factories. Food shortages were spreading. And to ensure the rank and file soldiers' loyalty, the government released Bolsheviks they had detained in connection with the summer riots.

To avoid imprisonment, Lenin had travelled to Finland in August. Realising it was now or never, in early October he returned to Petrograd and was the leading light in the insurgency that shook through all parts of Russian society. While the workers went on strike, peasants seized land that had previously been part of the great estates. En masse, soldiers left the Front to come home and claim land. On 7th November, 1918

GERMANY'S KAISER OVERESTIMATED HIS ARMY

Wilhelm's plans backfired and he resigned a few days after the October Revolution in Russia.

As a little boy dressed in uniform, Wilhelm dreamed of leading the German army to greatness and glory. When in 1888 he took the throne, he immediately sidelined the powerful Iron Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck.

However, nothing went as Wilhelm planned. In speeches and interviews he appeared like a bull in a china shop. For example, in 1908 he told the *Daily Telegraph* that, "You English are mad, mad, mad as March hares". The fallout from this gaffe reached Germany, where it led to serious calls for his abdication.

Wilhelm also fatally overrated the German military's capabilities on the eve of WWI. Wilhelm had expected the war on the Western Front to be over quickly, so transferred German forces to fight Russia on his eastern borders, opening up a second front. By the end of 1918, he was forced to abdicate as Germany headed to defeat.

 **Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany**
1859-1941 (reign 1888-1918)

MONEY MAN

OBJECTIVE: to remove his cousin Nicholas II of Russia from power, in order to expand Germany to the east and to get Russia out of WWI, so Germany could concentrate on the Western Front.



Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and their five children were executed on 17th July, 1918.

(25th October by the Russian calendar, hence the name "The October Revolution") the country was in such disarray that the Bolsheviks with the Red Guard – an armed workers' militia – forced the Provisional Government from the Winter Palace in a bloodless coup. Lenin was now Head of State.

Peace cost Russia dearly

The German Kaiser's interference was not over with the revolution. A final peace settlement dragged on because Lenin was dependent on other parties and factions in order to retain power and few of them wanted to find peace with an arch-enemy like Germany. In the days immediately following the

revolution, the German Finance Ministry transferred 15 million marks – about £35 million today – to the Bolsheviks in order to accelerate peace. The money was earmarked for propaganda, to convince the doubters.

In March 1918, Lenin and the Kaiser finally achieved their goal. A peace treaty was signed in Brest-Litovsk ending the war between

Russia and Germany. Russia paid a heavy price: it gave up land the size of Argentina containing a third of the Empire's population. Large coal and oil deposits and half of the Empire's industry also went to the Germans.

A few months later, Lenin fulfilled another big wish. On July 17, 1918, under the direction of the Bolshevik Yakov Yurovsky, Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra and the couple's five children were executed. In this way, Lenin made sure that Tsarism would never play a role in Russia again. ■

FURTHER READING

- Robert Service: **Lenin. A Biography**, Pan Books, 2000
- **Lenin und der Kaiser**, Spiegel Special Geschichte 4, 2007
- Michael Pearson: **The Sealed Train**, Rutnam, 1975
- Elisabeth Heresch: **Die Gekaufte Revolution**, Langen Müller, 2000
- **Die Gekaufte Revolution**, Spiegel TV nr. 10, 2007 (dvd)

Germany bet on several horses

Lenin's desire to pull Russia out of WWI, once he had taken power in Russia was helpful to the German Kaiser, who would be able to stop fighting on two fronts if this happened. Thus, even after the October Revolution in 1917, the Germans continued to send increasingly large sums of money to the Bolsheviks. However, once peace was signed and Lenin found himself being opposed by competing factions and parties, Germany changed its mind.

"It is dangerous to cast our share any further with the dying Bolsheviks", said the Kaiser in the summer of 1918. Documents from the German Foreign Ministry show that Lenin's political opponents were now paid hefty subsidies from the German treasury. Wilhelm wanted to ensure that Lenin's potential successors would be sympathetic to him too.

Germany recorded its support for Lenin's Revolution.



ARCHIV DES AUSWÄRTIGEN AMT

In the years after the revolution, Lenin still found it necessary to keep up his inspirational talks to the people.

BRIDGEMAN



TATIANA

OLGA

MARIE

ALEXANDRA

NICHOLAS

ANASTASIA

ALEXEI

During WWI in Russia the Tsar's family was one of the world's richest and most powerful royal families.

POLFOTO



**Warning:
Unpleasant reading**

The following pages
contain bloody details of the
executions in 1918.

QUICK OVERVIEW

Background: in 1918, Russia is in the midst of a bloody civil war, which cost 8-9 million human lives. The Bolsheviks, who seized power the year before, are close to being defeated.

Outcome: the Bolsheviks execute the Tsar and his entire family. Subsequently, the war turns and they end up victorious.


Consequences: a reintroduction of a Tsarist regime is impossible, but the execution has put a bloody stain on the Soviet state's reputation.

BOLSHEVIKS AREA,
JUNE 1918



MOSCOW

YEKATERINBURG



At the beginning of the Civil War the Red Army was a relatively small force, but it quickly grew to over two million men.

POLFO/TOFFOTO

Royal family's final hours

The Russian revolutionary leader Lenin wants to put the deposed Tsar on trial so he is held accountable for his crimes against the people. But forces loyal to the Tsar are close to capturing the country and time is running out for the Communists. A small group of men from the Urals are sent to execute the Tsar and wipe out his family.

BY MORTEN RENDSMARK

WWI is a disaster for Russia with 3.3 million soldiers and civilians killed and millions more starving to death because of food shortages. The country topples into revolution when on 15th March, 1917, Tsar Nicholas II is forced to abdicate.

He wants to pass the power to his brother Michael, so that the 304-year-old Romanov regime can continue but instead, a temporary government take control of the country and the Tsar's family move to Siberia.

The new government decides to continue the war against Germany – with fatal consequences. Russian war fatigue gives Bolsheviks (later Communists) greater acceptance within the community. On 7th November, 1917, they take power in a coup and Lenin makes peace with Germany. The Tsar's family is kept under house arrest.

After the Bolshevik coup, loyalist Tsar forces initiate a civil war. They are supported by a

number of countries, including France, Britain and the United States who all send troops to Russia. Western powers are concerned about the Bolshevik success and want Russia back in the war against Germany.

From the beginning of the fighting, the Tsar's troops prosper and win control of large areas of land. Soon the Bolsheviks decide to move the Tsar's family to their stronghold in Yekaterinburg, east of the Ural Mountains.

18th June, 1918, lunchtime

Yekaterinburg: *the Tsar's forces move towards the city where the Tsar's family are held captive. Without realising, this puts the family in acute danger.*

It's Princess Anastasia's birthday. The deposed Tsar Nicholas' youngest daughter is ►

Princess flirted with red guard

Tsarina Alexandra was furious when her daughter was caught in the act with a young guard.



Most of the guards who guarded the Tsar at the house in Yekaterinburg, were sympathetic towards him – not politically, of course, but on a strictly personal level. He was a friendly man who wanted to chat with them. Also, his daughters were both pretty and charming – only the Tsarina seemed sour, cold and supercilious.

The eldest daughter Olga was reserved, but the three youngest girls were lively and outgoing. They teased the guards or flirted with them. During a routine inspection, 19-year-old Marie was discovered in an intimate situation with a young guard. It wasn't made public, but the red guard and the princess had apparently been very fond of each other. The Tsar's family was informed of the affair, which had serious consequences for Marie. Her mother and sisters were cold towards her for the rest of their time in the house.

19-year-old Marie was happy and outgoing.

RUSALOCKHA

17 years old. The pretty young girl is as always, full of energy. Head cook Ivan Kharitonov has helped her to bake bread, which she serves her family for lunch. The meal is eaten on the first floor of Ipatjev House where they are held. Anastasia's mother thinks the bread is excellent, while the Tsar considers it "not bad".

After dinner, the family are allowed to go into the garden for some fresh air. The Tsar's only son, 13-year-old Alexei, is pushed in a wheelchair. He is bleeding and suffering from a swelling in his leg after banging his knee.

"We were all out for an hour and it was very hot. The bright bushes and honeysuckle are lovely, but the garden is a terrible mess", Tsarina Alexandra writes in her diary.

20th June at 07.00

Yekaterinburg: a Tsarist officer will help the family to flee.

Nuns from a nearby convent hand a basket of food to the guard outside Ipatjev House. The basket is for the Tsar's family, but is passed to

the guard's cook. As he unpacks the food, he discovers a letter hidden in the neck of a milk bottle. He gives it to the house's commander, Alexander Avdeev and he immediately sends for military Commissioner Filipp Goloshchyokin from the Ural Regional Soviet – the local Revolutionary Council. The letter reads:

"Stay ready day and night. Make drawings of the rooms, the furniture and beds. Tell us when you go to bed. You should sit up between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00. Give us a brief reply with the information we need".

The letter is anonymous. It merely states that the sender is an officer in the Russian Army.

The Bolsheviks are concerned that someone is trying to rescue the Tsar's family. Their intelligence service – Cheka – are immediately on the case, but find nothing.

29th June, afternoon

Yekaterinburg: the Ural Regional Soviets sentence the ex-Tsar and his entire household to death.

A dozen men stand by a round, polished table in room no. 3 at the American Hotel. It is the city's grandest hotel with marble floors and palm trees in the foyer. The men are members of the Ural Regional Soviets, responsible for Tsar Nicholas and his family who sit under house arrest just a few blocks away.

In an urgent meeting, participants exchange news and opinions about the military situation. The civil war is going very badly for the Bolsheviks. The Red Army is in retreat and the Tsar's forces are now only 50 kilometres from the city. The sound of their guns can already be heard as a distant rumble. No one seriously believes that it is possible to hold Yekaterinburg.

There is only one item on the agenda for today's meeting. The Soviets must determine the Tsar's fate. He must under no circumstances be freed by the counter-revolutionaries as he will be a natural rallying point for their cause. In addition, Nicholas' class are the Bolsheviks' number one enemy. They want revenge for the Tsar's fierce repression of peasants and workers, their deportation to prison camps in Siberia and the numerous cases of torture and killings instigated by Nicholas' secret police.

The men's discussion is short. Secretary Grigory Safarov writes down their joint resolution on a piece of paper:

"The Regional Soviets refuse to take responsibility for an evacuation of Nicholas Romanov to Moscow, as has been suggested. We consider it necessary to liquidate him. His family and the servants must also be liquidated".

Thus, 11 people are sentenced to death. The Tsar, the Tsarina, Crown Prince Alexei and

four princesses between 17-22 years old and the court doctor, cook, a servant and a maid.

The Ural Regional Soviets' military Commissioner Filipp Goloshchyokin travels to Moscow to secure Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin's approval immediately.

3rd July, evening

Kremlin, Moscow: Lenin does not have time to think about the Imperial family's destiny. He is working to ward off a threatened revolt in the Capital.

Goloshchyokin arrives in Moscow expecting an audience with Lenin immediately, but the Bolshevik leader is too busy to meet him.

In principle, Lenin is in favour of a trial in which all of the Tsar's abuses towards the people come to light. Yet he considers the Tsar's family to be a political trump card he can play against the German Kaiser Wilhelm II as he has made peace on Russia's behalf – with great Russian land disposals to follow. The German Kaiser is related to Tsarina Alexandra and wants the family to be released.

Lenin does not intend the matter finished, but he is also aware that time is running out for the Bolsheviks. They must mobilise an additional 100,000 volunteers for the Red Army. As he says to army chief Leon Trotsky:

"The Tsar's trial is a good idea if it can be done. Perhaps we do not have the time". Monarchists, socialists, anarchists and socialists fight the Bolsheviks and there's a rebellion brewing in the Russian capital. Tsarist forces control the Trans-Siberian railway and are moving rapidly toward Yekaterinburg. The city is expected to fall within a few weeks. No, Lenin does not have time. The Ural Regional Soviets' envoy should talk to his right-hand man, Yakov Sverdlov.

During the conversation, Goloshchyokin presses for a clear answer. Can the execution be approved or not? Yakov Sverdlov thinks he should ask Lenin, which he does – without

Goloshchyokin. Lenin is still insistent that the Tsar be put on trial.

He will not make a decision on the Ural Regional Soviets' resolution right now.

4th July

Ipatiev House, Yekaterinburg: the sloppy and drunken Commander Avdeev is replaced without warning by a more reliable person.

40-year-old Yakov Yurovsky takes over command of the house with immediate effect. He is a member of the Ural Regional Soviets and appointed in charge of the execution.

When they get wind of Avdeev's removal, the prisoners in the house have no idea something odd has happened. The Tsar thinks it must be because of the man's drinking and thefts from the family trunks in an outhouse.

Yurovsky goes to meet the prisoners who are living in five rooms on the first floor.

"How's the leg?" He asks Alexei kindly.

Yakov Yurovsky looks like a bit of a wild man with his heavy black beard, but Nicholas appreciates his friendly conversation and the calm and proper way he acts.

"Our new commander is a gentleman", he writes in his diary.

8th July

Moscow: Goloshchyokin prepares to leave the city where the Bolsheviks have just defeated an armed rebellion.

Filipp Goloshchyokin has accepted that he's returning empty-handed. He has not met Lenin, who still refuses to endorse the Ural Regional Soviets' resolution. But shortly before ▶



SVERDLOV

The Bolshevik in charge. Indirectly, Yakov Sverdlov gave the green light for Tsar Nicholas' execution.

POLFO/ULLSTEIN BILD

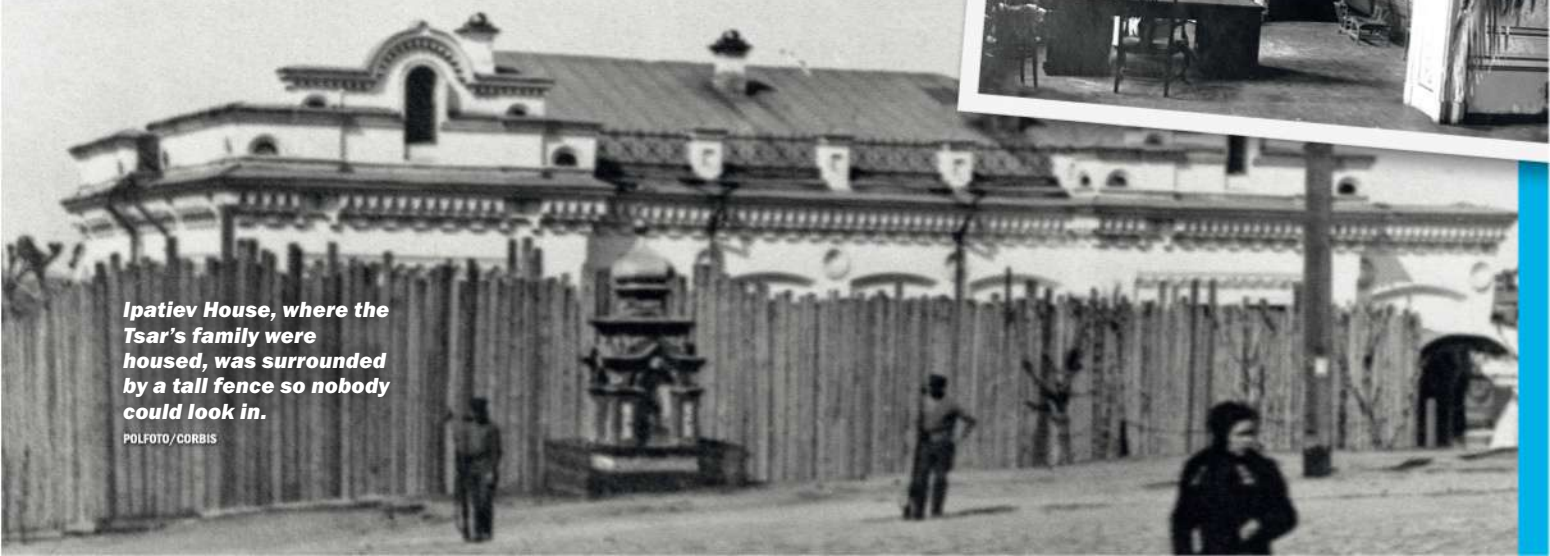
The Tsar's family used this room during their captivity in Ipatiev House.

POLFO/CORBIS



Ipatiev House, where the Tsar's family were housed, was surrounded by a tall fence so nobody could look in.

POLFO/CORBIS





YUROVSKY

The firing squad's leader Yakov Yurovsky was a watchmaker with no experience of execution.

HISTORUM

Goloshchyokin leaves, something unexpected happens. He's told that Sverdlov would like to see him again.

The meeting is brief. Sverdlov knows he must be careful and not say any more than he needs to: if Yekaterinburg falls, the Tsar must die. It will be a disaster if he is freed.

Sverdlov looks at Goloshchyokin and says:

"Comrade, if you can organise a trial, do it. If not, well, you know what that means".

The message travels back to Yekaterinburg with Goloshchyokin. He understands.

12th July at 13.27

Moscow: according to reports, as the world waits, the Tsar is killed.

The secretary passes Lenin a telegram from the Danish newspaper *Nationaltidende* (National Journal) in Copenhagen. The newspaper reads:

"Rumour has it that ex-Tsar was murdered. Please send facts. National Journal".

It is no coincidence that a Danish newspaper is the first to want the rumours confirmed. The Danish King Christian X has expressed his concern. He is one of the Tsar's cousins. The Imperial family's destiny is of great interest to *Nationaltidende* readers who typically belong to the upper classes.

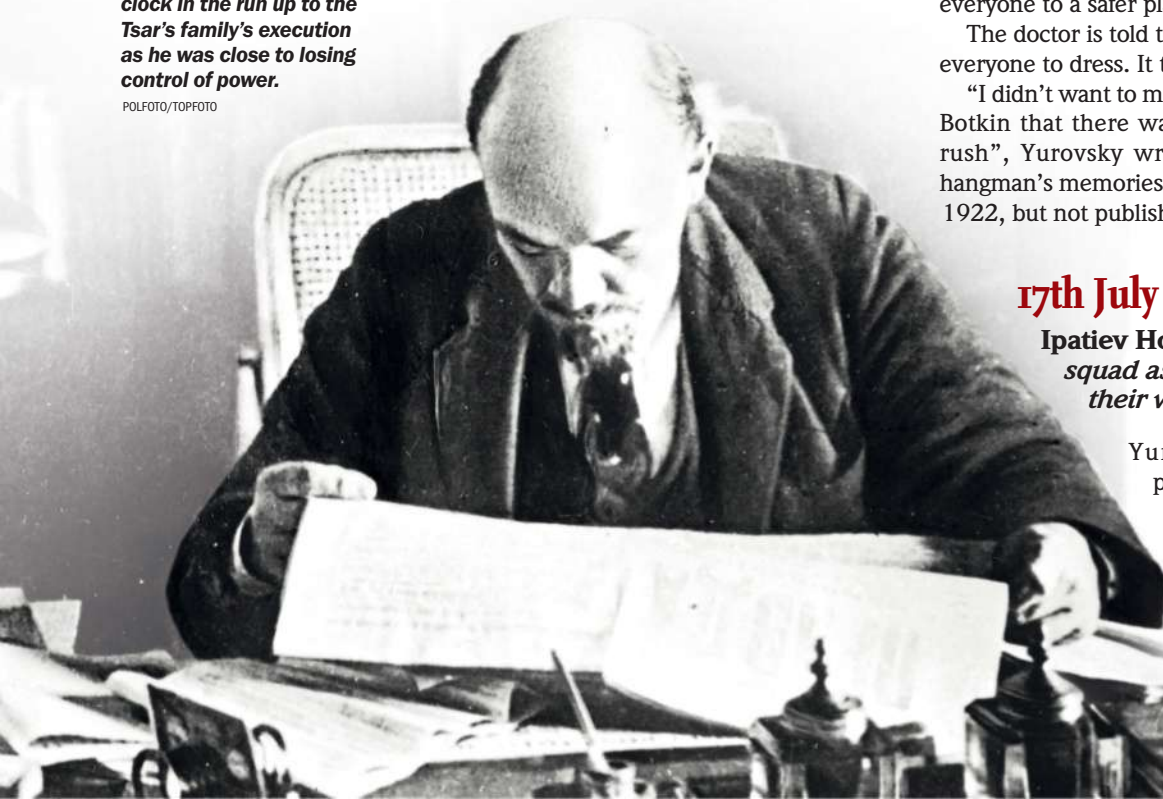
Lenin dictates an immediate reply to the newspaper: the rumours are false. The deposed Tsar lives.

14th July at 10.00

Yekaterinburg: Yurovsky allows a priest to hold a service for the prisoners.

Revolution leader Vladimir Lenin worked around the clock in the run up to the Tsar's family's execution as he was close to losing control of power.

POLFO/TOFFOTO



The deeply religious Imperial family have asked for a priest to hold Sunday worship and although Yurovsky, as a Bolshevik, hates the Orthodox Church and all its followers, he decides to say yes. His prisoners may only have hours left and he will not deny them anything.

Father Ioann Storojev arrives at the house and appears in Yurovsky's office.

"Someone asked for a priest", he says, as if he does not know who the "someone" is.

"Wait here a moment, then you can start the service", Yurovsky replied.

He summons the Tsar's family who are gathered in the dining room. The priest gets ready and looks around the room. Tsarevich Alexei sits in his wheelchair wearing a sailor cut jacket. He is pale and almost looks like a wax doll. The four princesses – Olga, Tatiana, Marie and Anastasia – are dressed in white blouses and black dresses. They are pretty and look healthy, but Storojev notes that they, like the other family members, seem subdued.

The service is monitored and the priest does not get the opportunity to talk to the prisoners.

"When I left the room afterwards, one of the great duke's daughters thanked me, but she was whispering", Storojev recalled.

17th July at 01.30

Ipatiev House: the time has come.

Yurovsky has received his orders from the Ural Regional Soviet. The Tsar's family are woken and told to dress.

Yurovsky knocks on the door to Dr Eugene Botkin's room and says loudly:

"There are riots in the city. We have to move everyone to a safer place".

The doctor is told to wake the family and get everyone to dress. It takes 45 minutes.

"I didn't want to make them uneasy, so I told Botkin that there was plenty of time and no rush", Yurovsky writes in his memoirs "A hangman's memories". The manuscript is from 1922, but not published until 70 years later.

17th July at 01.50

Ipatiev House: the firing squad assemble and receive their weapons.

Yurovsky thinks he has prepared thoroughly and thought everything through. The execution must be carried out discreetly and therefore he will carry it out in the

house's basement, not in the garden, as otherwise local residents will soon discover what the Bolsheviks are up to.

Yurovsky's knowledge of weapons is disastrously hazy. He has not anticipated the chaos that will occur when a firing squad of a dozen men open fire in a small basement room. The stage is set for carnage that far surpasses Yurovsky's worst nightmares.

"The execution must be quick and efficient", he emphasises seriously to the firing squad.

Each man is allocated a target. There are 11 executioners and 11 doomed. Commissioner Peter Ermakov for example, should shoot the Tsarina and it's the only thing that worries Yurovsky. Ermakov is clearly drunk, vocal and armed with several pistols and a long bayonet.

For a moment, Yurovsky considers removing him from the squad, but thinks it's too late to change the plans. The operation is in progress and must be implemented quickly.

The firing squad's leader has put a selection of pistols and revolvers on the table, including Mauser, Brown Inger, Russian Nagant and one Smith & Wesson. Victor Netrebin who has been a guard at the house for a long time, is given a Russian revolver, which he accepts with trembling hands.

"The seriousness suddenly dawned on me, and like my peers, I was extremely nervous", he will write later in his account, "Memoirs of the destruction of the Romanovs".

Victor Netrebin is only 17, but already an experienced Red Guard. He has fought at the Front and also tried to kill. But killing in combat is one thing – this is something completely different. The young man's hands keep shaking uncontrollably, even though he is clutching the revolver to get them to stop.

17th July at 02.15

Ipatiev House: the Tsar's family leave their rooms on the first floor.

None of Imperial family members or their staff look worried, yet all are silent as they walk down the stairs. Nicholas takes the lead, carrying Alexei in his arms.

Yurovsky leads the group to the ground floor and from there down to the cellar.

"I had said that no one should take anything with them. But still they carried on all sorts of things like bags and pillows", he recalled later.

Yurovsky opens the door at the end of the hall. The room is vaulted and is about eight metres long and seven metres wide.

Tsarina Alexandra looks around as she enters. The room is completely empty.

"Why are there no chairs? Is it also forbidden to sit down?" She asks angrily.

Tsar's executioners lived with guilt

None of firing squad's members could ever get over the nightmare they had helped to create.

Yakov Yurovsky, who led the firing squad, was ashamed of the chaos unleashed by his lack of knowledge about firearms. After the Civil War he had a career in the secret service and later in the National Bank, but lived as a tortured man and died from a bleeding ulcer in 1938.

Commissioner Pyotr Voykov who was a publicly known member of the firing squad did not fare any better.

Voykov was appointed Soviet Ambassador to Poland. One July day in 1927, he stood at the railway station in Warsaw, as teenager Boris Koverda approached him, pulled out a revolver and killed him. Koverda was an exiled Russian and son of a former officer in the Tsar's

army. In court, he was sentenced to life imprisonment. He declared that the killing was revenge for the Tsar's family.

Pyotr Voykov was not the only one who died. Many of the firing squad fell during the Civil War.

Prior to the execution, the Tsar enjoyed gardening and became quite good at it.

POLFOFO/CORBIS



Yurovsky picks up two chairs, so the Tsarina and her frail son can sit down.

17th July at 02.30

Ipatiev House: the Tsar is completely baffled by the death sentence.

Yurovsky opens a double door to the basement room where the Tsar's family and staff are waiting. His men enter and form two rows. Those at the rear will shoot over the shoulders of those in front. Nicholas, Alexandra and Dr Botkin stare at the men, while Prince Alexei watches with big eyes from his chair.

"What a short and sad life the boy lived", thinks Netrebin.

Yurovsky orders all prisoners to their feet. The Tsarina glares at him as she gets up.

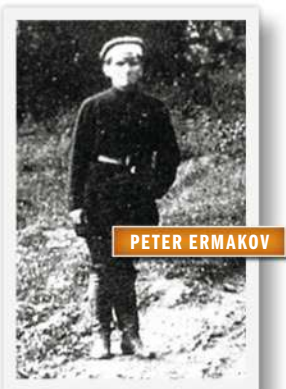
The commander can now target the Tsar and reads from a slightly crumpled note, he has in his hand:

"The Ural Regional Soviets have decided to condemn you to death, since it is a fact that your allies continue to attack Soviet Russia". ▶



The execution of the Tsar's family was a nightmare that lasted ten minutes.

BRIDGEMAN



Executioner Peter Ermakov took photographs in the woods where he helped to bury the Tsar's family.

ALEXANDER PALACE TIME MACHINE

"Oh God! Oh my God! What is this?" Exclaims the Tsar.

"We not going somewhere else then", says the doctor.

"I do not understand what you are saying! Please read it again!" the Tsar shouts to Yurovsky.

Irritated, he asks the commander to reconsider. The Tsarina, along with her eldest daughter Olga, now understand the message. They make the sign of the cross on their chest, as the Tsar shouts:

"What? What?"

"This", answers Yurovsky and pulls his pistol. He pulls the trigger and a deafening blast rings out in the bare cellar. The first shot hits the Tsar in the chest and shudders through him. All of the firing squad now open fire. But instead of shooting at their designated victims they all level their weapons against the Tsar. It's him they have come to kill – not women, children and servants. There's no pride in that. In a moment, Nicholas turns into one big, bloody smudge. One of the shots hits him in the heart and he falls to the floor.

With the Tsar's death, the executioners begin firing at their designated targets, but they are already hard to see. The room is so filled with gunpowder that only the prisoners' legs are visible. Their eyes sting from the smoke while thunder and screams echo in their ears. The executioners shoot – as fast as they can pull the triggers. Bullets ricochet off walls and squeal around the room. Each moment the executioners risk being hit by their own shots. Everything is in chaos.

"Hold! Hold your fire! Stop!" shouts Yurovsky, but nobody listens.

Dr Botkin, the cook Kharitonov and the waiter Trupp are hit. Trupp sinks to his knees and an executioner shoots him in the head. The women huddle together on one side of the room. The drunken Ermakov sees the Tsarina two metres in front of him. He aims as she turns away. The bullet hits her in the left side of the head and she dies on the spot.

Three of the princesses huddle in a corner, while the fourth – Marie – rushes to a door, which leads into a storeroom. She frantically turns handle and throws herself against the door, but cannot get it open. The executioner Ermakov approaches. His Mauser is empty, so he draws a second gun. He hits Marie in the hip and she falls. In panic, the maid Demidova runs back and forth along a wall. An executioner

shoots and she collapses in pain. Gunpowder smoke is now so thick that the single bulb in the ceiling can barely be seen.

"Stop, damn it, stop!" roars Yurovsky.

Finally the men obey. Rushed with adrenaline and gasping for breath they tumble out from the basement and into the hallway. The room they leave is filled with wounded and whimpering victims. Several of the executioners lean against the walls and throw up. As the fumes start to disperse into the passage they can see the execution room more clearly.

"We have to go back inside! We must complete the job!" shouts Yurovsky.

The men pull themselves together and enter again. An executioner puts a gun to the wounded court doctor Botkin's head and kills him.

In the middle of the room, Crown Prince Alexei sits petrified on his chair. He is covered with his father's blood. One of the executioners, Yurovsky's assistant Nikulin, aims at the boy. With trembling hands he shoots five times, while Yurovsky also fires the last bullet from his magazine.

Alexei slips off the chair but after six shots he's still not dead. Ermakov draws his bayonet and drives it in the boy's body again and again. But still Alexei groans. The executioners can not believe the frail boy is not yet dead. They find the explanation later. The Tsarina has hidden a lot of gold and precious stones in his clothes, so should they manage to escape from Russia the family has something to start a new life with. The precious stones partially protects Alexei against both shots and bayonet strikes making his death both long and painful.

Yurovsky is desperate to see the horrors completed. He pushes Ermakov aside, pulling a Colt and shoots Alexei twice more. This time all signs of life disappear.

Once again the room fills with gunpowder and the floor is a bloody mess. In one corner Princesses Olga and Tatiana huddle as they cling to each other. Yurovsky and Ermakov straddle over the corpses. The two women jump up in horror. Yurovsky walks up behind Tatiana and shoots her in the head. Ermakov brutally kicks Olga then shoots her in the head.

Princess Marie is wounded. She and Anastasia seek cover behind Demidova's body on the floor. Ermakov hears them scream. He steps toward them with his bloody bayonet and plunges it several times into Marie's chest but not deep enough to kill her. Instead another executioner comes to kill the princess with a shot to the head.

Anastasia has run into a corner of the basement, but Ermakov finds her. He's on a killing spree and swings his bayonet wildly in

the air. He strikes the girl's chest several times then he shoots her in the head.

The servant girl Demidova is still alive. She wakes up after being unconscious.

"I live! God has saved me! Thank God!" She shouts hysterically.

Ermakov stabs her with his bayonet, which she grasps. Her hands are cut when Ermakov pulls the weapon back with a deadly blow.

Finally, the basement room is quiet. Ermakov staggers around drunk and again plunges his bayonet into the victims on the floor. He plants the weapon in Nicholas and Alexandra's dead bodies several times before he finally gets tired.

Yurovsky and fellow assassin Kudrin walk around the smoky room and feel each of the victims for a pulse. The execution has taken ten horrifying minutes.

The house's security guards are assigned to carry the bodies out to a truck, but when they grab one of the girls, she screams suddenly and puts her hands over her face. Another one of the princesses was also found to be still alive. The survivors are the two youngest girls – Marie and Anastasia. Ermakov grabs a rifle with a bayonet and lunges again, but when the girls do not die immediately, he turns the gun and bangs the barrel on the girls' heads until they both lie still on the floor.

"It was a great pity that we let them suffer such a horrible death", firing squad member Pyotr Voykov writes later.

18th July evening

Moscow: Bolshevik party leaders are informed of the execution – more than one and a half days after it happened.

Lenin is in the middle of a meeting with other leading Bolsheviks as Yakov Sverdlov comes over and whispers in his ear. Lenin clears his throat:

"Comrade Sverdlov wishes to speak. He has an update", he says.

Sverdlov reads out a telegram from the Ural Regional Soviets which announces that they have executed the Tsar. After reading the telegram, those present are asked to put their hand up if they approve the Ural Regional Soviets'

decision. Everyone – even Lenin – raises their hands. The Bolshevik Party leadership has positioned themselves firmly behind the execution.

The official announcement says that only Tsar Nicholas has been shot, with the Empress and heir sent to a "secure place". It's not until eight years later that they admit to having executed the whole family.

FURTHER READING

• Greg King & Penny Wilson: **The Fate of the Romanovs**, John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2003 • Helen Rappaport: **The Last Days of the Romanovs**, Hutchinson, 2009

The victims' funeral went wrong too

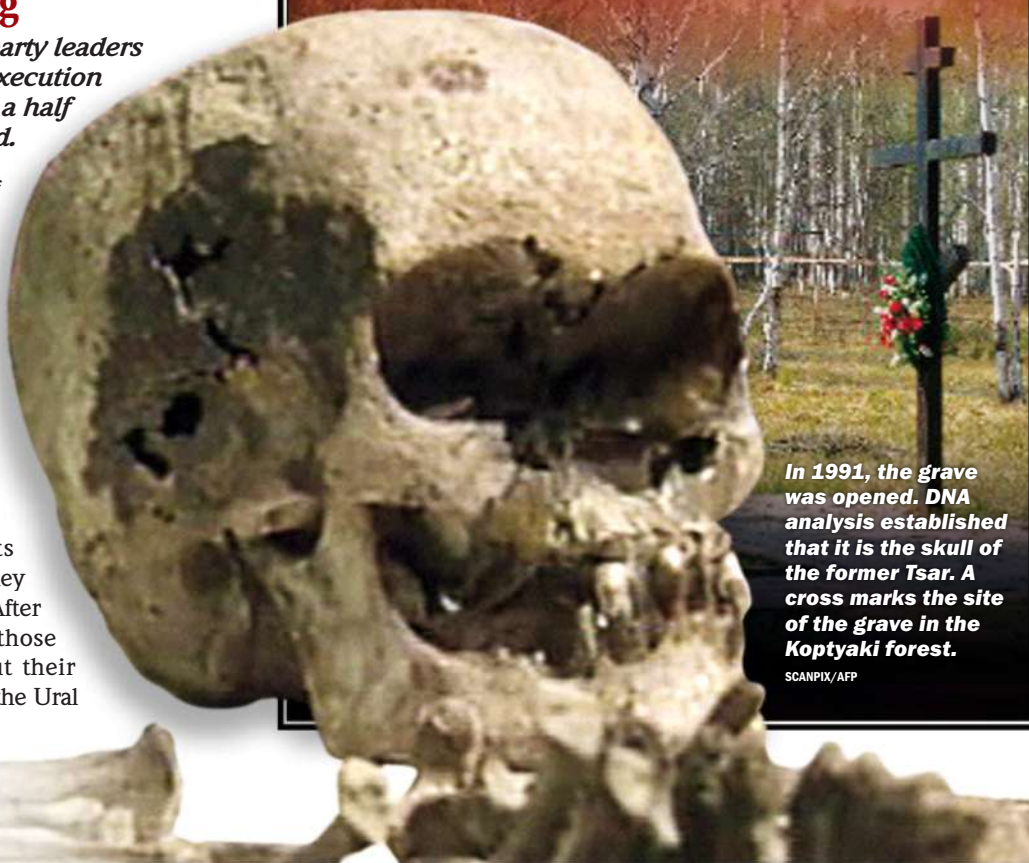
The bodies never reached the planned site, a deep mine shaft where they would have been well hidden.

Lead executioner Yakov Yurovsky had intended to deposit the bodies in a deep mine shaft, but along the way the overloaded truck became hopelessly stuck in the mud in a small clearing in Koptiyaki forest, which was about 16 kilometres outside Yekaterinburg.

Yurovsky decided to bury the bodies at the site. While his men were digging he tried to burn the bodies of Alexei and Marie, which was only partially successful. Where the 11 bodies were buried, the victims' faces were

crushed with spades and rifle butts and then doused with sulphuric acid so that they could not be recognised.

On 25th July, Yekaterinburg fell to Tsarist forces. Some welcomed them as liberators but the joy was short-lived as it turned out that the Tsarists were harder to deal with than the Bolsheviks. In the Yekaterinburg area alone, 25,000 people were executed, suspected of red sympathies. A year later, the city was recaptured by the Red Army who then went on to win the Civil War.



In 1991, the grave was opened. DNA analysis established that it is the skull of the former Tsar. A cross marks the site of the grave in the Koptiyaki forest.

SCANPIX/AFP

**Eugen Leviné
and Ernst Toller
dreamed of
transforming
Bavaria into a
communist
state.**

BPK OG SHUTTERSTOCK

Germans created Soviet Republic of Bavaria

***In April 1919 German Communists
conquer Bavaria. Immediately, they
establish a socialist republic, confiscate
bourgeois homes and arm the people.***

Eugen Leviné is getting ready for bed when the doorbell rings in his apartment in Munich on 13th April, 1919. Outside stands a messenger, who asks Leviné to appear before the republic's war ministry immediately. While the 35-year-old exiled Russian

paces through Munich's dark streets, the man who has taken the message to Leviné tells him that the main train station has already been occupied by loyalist soldiers. Meanwhile, small groups of armed volunteers set about taking control of the city's key positions.

Six days previously, Leviné's old friend Ernst Toller toppled the Socialist government in Bavaria and touted for the state to become a Soviet republic. In the intervening days, ardent Leninist Leviné realised that Toller had failed to undertake a true socialist revolution and so decided to take power and turn Bavaria into a communist republic.

During the night, Toller is arrested and in the morning, for the second time in six days, Leviné touts for a Soviet Republic in Bavaria. During the next week, the new regime – a 15-man action committee – introduces a string

of socialist decrees. Soldiers seize big houses in Munich and offer them as collectives to city workers. Others confiscate private cars in the name of the revolution and the Regina Palace Hotel in the heart of the city will be nationalised for Munich's homeless.

To ensure the army's loyalty, the working committee doubles wages and gives soldiers the right to call themselves Red Guards.

Republic arms itself

The army is one of the action committee's main focuses; it is the Republic's sole bulwark against the German government in Berlin. Therefore, Leviné introduces the death penalty for citizens who do not voluntarily hand over their weapons immediately. With the seized weapons, Leviné arms up to 20,000 loyal men in

GERMANY/1919



Germany lost WWI and Kaiser Wilhelm fled. Subsequently, democrats created a republic. The new state was ravaged by fighting between revolutionary groups.

Around 1,000 were killed in street fights before the Red Guard surrendered on 2nd May.



work brigades. The brigades act as armed militias and have the job of seizing the bourgeoisie's food. A militia leader writes in his report that "a certain Baroness" had a bathtub filled to the brim with eggs, which was immediately proclaimed state property.

As a sign of the new times, Leviné touts Munich's symbol of the famous Frauenkirche, the "revolutionary temple" and later sends a cheery message to Lenin in Moscow that "the proletariat's true dictatorship was established in Bavaria". His hope is to get support and help from his communist comrades in Russia to continue the revolution.

On 20th April, Lenin writes an article in the Russian newspaper *Pravda*, where after a short greeting, he sets out a graphic, revolutionary memo to his colleagues in Bavaria:

"Workers' wages should be doubled – or tripled, immediately. The bourgeoisie-controlled banks should be seized and all clothes from the stores be distributed among the proletariat". The list is long, but when Leviné reads it he notes with satisfaction that his new regime is already well underway.

The army crushes the revolution

The response to Leviné's socialist reforms is less positive in Berlin where the Weimar Republic's first government is trying to hold Germany together.

When Ernst Toller introduced the first Soviet republic, Berlin chose to accept it. They believed that seizure of power could bring peace to a troubled Bavaria and Toller had also said that he did not want any radical changes. From Berlin's point of view, Leviné's proposed changes offer an entirely different proposition.

So Prussian troops are mobilised and told to occupy Munich.

On 22nd April, the message is taken to the action committee. The messenger knocks on the door of the room where Leviné and his ministers are convened. After several days of uninterrupted revolutionary activity, all of the ministers have fallen asleep in the middle of another meeting.

The message that government troops are heading towards Munich does not put the action committee into panic. The 15-strong committee has full confidence that the Red Guard can keep the White Army – as they call the German troops – at bay. They continue to discuss a proposal to abolish money.

The next day the Soviet Republic is rocked from within. The so-called Thule Society – a right-wing militia – begin tough street fights. On 29th April, Leviné decides to use a final opportunity to flex his muscles by having ten Thule activists executed – including the German Prince Gustav von Thurn und Taxis. German troops are in Munich's suburbs and although the Red Guards' resistance is strong, it is useless. Three days later the last Red Army soldiers surrender to Government troops.

The Action Committee's 15 members are sentenced to long prison terms and Eugen Leviné is given a death sentence, scheduled for 5th July.

"Long live the revolution!" He shouts, just before he's shot. As a prelude to a new era, the Thule marks Leviné's death by marching with swastikas through the streets of Munich. ■

FURTHER READING

• Rosa Levine-Meyer: *Levine – the life of a revolutionary*, Saxon House, 1973 • D.C. Large: *Where ghosts walked, Munich's Road to the Third Reich*, W.W. Norton, 1998

The Bavarian Red Army recruited 20,000 men – mainly veterans of WWI.

Foreign minister would war with all

The Soviet Republic was ruled by a bunch of amateurs with Foreign Minister Dr Franz Lipp as the most remarkable.

In his short period as Minister, Lipp declared war on Switzerland because the alpine state refused to lend 60 locomotives to the new republic. Government papers also show that he had considered a war against the Vatican too.

Only once did Lipp establish radio contact with the Soviet leader Lenin, in which he proudly proclaimed that:

"The proletariat in Upper Bavaria is very happy", and he then complained that his predecessor had fled the country and taken the key to the Ministry's toilet with him.

This remark is the hallmark of the Foreign Minister, who had a history of mental instability, and knew nothing about politics at all.

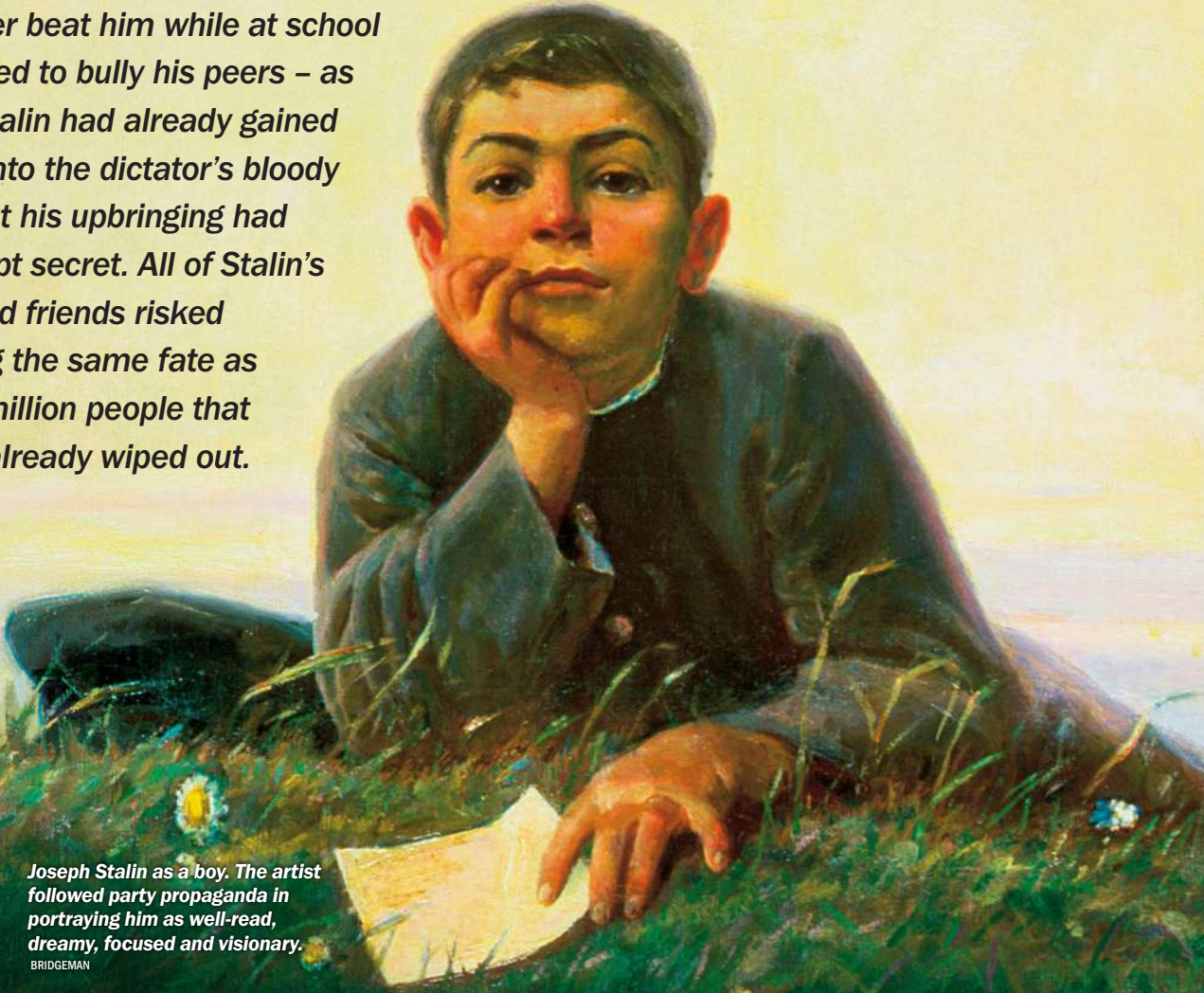
Lipp carried out a single decree, which was concerned with Bavaria's internal affairs. The Republic's trams should be reserved in advance exclusively for the proletariats when the bourgeoisie had to go to work.



ST★LIN

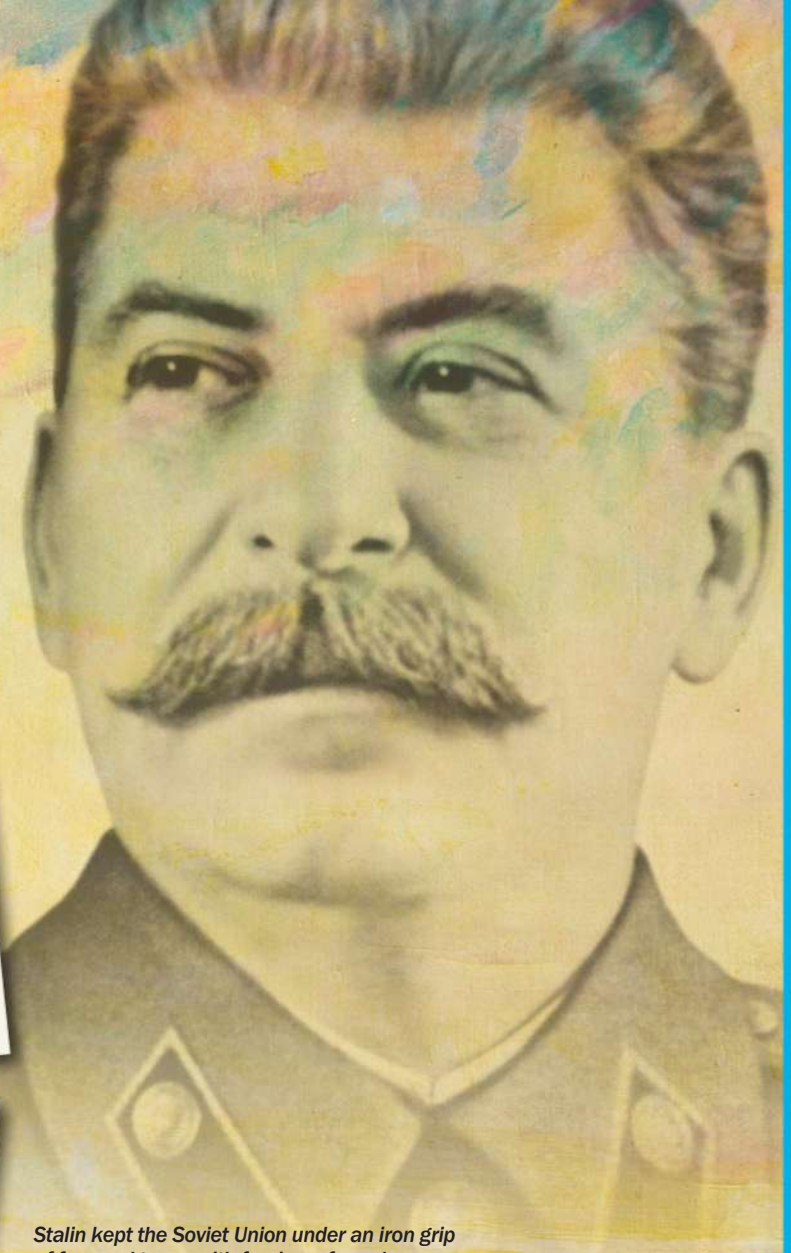
becomes a tyrant

His father beat him while at school he learned to bully his peers – as a boy, Stalin had already gained insight into the dictator's bloody craft. But his upbringing had to be kept secret. All of Stalin's childhood friends risked suffering the same fate as the 20 million people that he had already wiped out.



Joseph Stalin as a boy. The artist followed party propaganda in portraying him as well-read, dreamy, focused and visionary.

BRIDGEMAN



Stalin kept the Soviet Union under an iron grip of fear and terror with famines, forced industrialisation of agriculture, political courts and Siberian prison camps.

ULLSTEIN BILD/CORBIS





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"Man of Steel", "Peace Genius" and "The Brilliant Leader" – Joseph Stalin claimed that he didn't like the cult of personality around him, but he allowed it anyway because it was politically useful. The result was a stream of tribute poems, pictures and statues.

GEORGIA/1879



During Stalin's childhood, Russia is characterised by social and ethnic conflicts. Some defeated countries want independence and Karl Marx inspires a socialist movement.

him with pompous praise and titles like "Man of Steel", the "new Lenin", "Iron Soldier", "Peace Genius", "Working People's benefactor", the "Brilliant Leader" and many more.

In his acceptance speech at the celebration, Joseph Stalin said: "You need have no doubt, comrades, that I am prepared in the future, too, to devote to the cause of the working class, to the cause of the proletarian revolution and world communism, all my strength, all my ability and, if need be, all my blood, drop by drop".

about building the communist's future Utopia, while Stalin was far more practical dealing with the Communist Party's day-to-day business. He was the party's Secretary General and it gave him a decisive advantage: he was in a position where he gradually, and almost imperceptibly, filled posts in the party system with his own supporters. Power interested him more than the others' rambling discussions.

Lenin's will warned against Stalin's coarse nature, excessive ambition and his character flaws. Lenin even recommended he be removed from the post of Secretary General. Previously the two men had worked well together, yet in later years they'd disagreed more and more.

"During the time Comrade Stalin has been Secretary General he has concentrated enormous power in his hands. I am not convinced that he will always understand how to use this power with caution", Lenin wrote, adding: "Stalin is too rude".

However, Stalin managed to downplay and conceal these sections in the will until his position was so strong that no one could touch him.

Over the years 1924-1929, Stalin unveiled his skills for intrigue by

Stalin manipulates his way to power

Five years before, in 1924, the young Soviet State's undisputed leader Vladimir Lenin died. At the time, it was unlikely that his successor would be the Georgian, Stalin. Several others were further up the line for succession – names like Grigory Zinoviev, Lev Kamenev, Nikolai Bukharin and Leon Trotsky. They had all played a major role in the events that led to the Tsar's fall in 1917 and the formation of the Soviet Union. They were also closer to the deceased Lenin and better educated and politically stronger than Stalin.

But the four spent too much of their time on ideological discussions

In 1929, Joseph Stalin celebrated his 50th birthday. For the tyrant and mass murderer it was a good day – and a good year. From across the vast country, deputations of submissive workers and peasants flocked to the capital Moscow to celebrate the real ruler of the Soviet Union.

In previous years, Stalin had eliminated all opposition and cemented his power – even though he did not have any formal positions in the state system. Cities and mountains were named after the pockmarked man from Georgia, and workplaces had unanimously adopted resolutions that paid tribute to the "Great Leader" It was quite natural to honour

BY FLEMING KYED

successfully playing his rivals off against each other while at the same time presenting himself as the sensible, centrist candidate to succeed Lenin. He entered into a temporary alliance with Zinoviev and Kamenev to politically gag Trotsky and stripped him of control of the Red Army. But when Zinoviev and Kamenev pressed to finally get rid of Trotsky, Stalin rejected them at the most critical moment:

"We do not agree with Zinoviev and Kamenev. We know that using weapons and bloodshed is dangerous and contagious. Today we take down one man, tomorrow another, the day after a third. Then what is left of the party?" He said to loud applause.

Over the following few years, Stalin ordered Leon Trotsky be killed with an ice pick, Zinoviev and Kamenev were shot after a public trial and then the vast majority of the applauding delegates were executed or put into labour camps.

On the way, he played the party elite's two wings off against each other to progressively disarm all opposition.

Stalin's childhood was false

In 1929, there were many who were wary of the new ruler in Soviet Union. Yet until his death in 1953,

few knew the extent of the atrocities Stalin had committed.

A conservative estimate puts the number of deaths caused by Soviet communism at 20 million: through starvation, execution, internal displacement and by people placed in labour camps. The vast majority of these can be laid at Stalin's door. He admitted that he slept better after a good evening's work signing off hundreds and even thousands of death sentences.

Stalin killed off large numbers of his party comrades, peasants (particularly more affluent ones), and thousands of army officers, to say nothing of academics and artists, priests, administrators and industry leaders. Any opposition – real or imagined – and even his own henchmen were added to the list of victims of one of history's most extensive terror regimes. The vaguest hint of a potential contact with foreigners – stamp collectors for example – and you'd be off to the Gulag.

Historians cannot agree on what motivated Stalin. Was it a simple lust for power? A deep-seated need to portray himself as a historic figure with the same gravitas as Vladimir Lenin? The ultimate answer is no one knows, not even his childhood in mountainous

Georgia provides an explanation. It's known that growing up, he had enduring experiences, conflicts, defeats and victories that helped to shape the despot that he became.

His real childhood was a secret – Stalin and his cronies made sure that his peers and other eyewitnesses from his childhood and adolescence were silenced or disappeared, so they couldn't share what they knew about him. Instead, myths and legends were created about the "Great Leader's" life, making it difficult to get to the truth.

But it is clear that the name "Stalin" (Steel man) was a revolutionary pseudonym, which he called himself from 1912. In fact, his real name was Joseph Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili. His exact birthday is not known but officially it was 21st December, 1879.

Loved by mother, beaten by father

Joseph Dzhugashvili was born in the small mountain town of Gori in Georgia. Rather than an actual house there was a shed with two rooms, a damp earthen floor and a leaky ▶

Germany starts the revolution

During WWI, Lenin lived in exile in Switzerland. The German command smuggled him into Russia so that he would take power and end the war.

The people in Russia grew tired of the Tsar's autocratic rule and the gruelling war. In March 1917, they stormed the Tsar's palace in St Petersburg. The so-called February Revolution forced the Tsar to give up his throne. In the middle of war, the country's inhabitants had seemingly found a new, democratic society.

The Bolsheviks (Communists) enjoyed some support from the people, but they were hamstrung without their charismatic leader Vladimir Lenin, who lived in exile in Switzerland.

It was impossible for him to come home: Germany and Russia were at war. But the German military – with the support of Lenin who was against the war – saw an opportunity to force

Russia to surrender. If he took power, fighting would cease on the Eastern Front, allowing the Germans to focus on the Western Front. Therefore, they offered to bring Lenin by train to Finland and on to St Petersburg.

The German plan succeeded. When Lenin returned to Russia in April, riots flared up, and the Bolsheviks seized power in a coup (the October Revolution), ending the war with Germany.

In the following years, the Communists built the Soviet Union. At the beginning of his tenure, Lenin benefited greatly from Stalin who was a results-driven enforcer and organiser.

Revolutionary Vladimir Lenin came to Russia in 1917. At that time Stalin was a background figure.

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Stalin's rivals were pushed out of the way

"No man, no problem" was the motto which Stalin consistently lived by. Many of his comrades were killed.

Lenin died at 53, long before anyone had any thoughts about succession in the party's leadership.

Of all the heirs to the role, the head of the Red Army Leon Trotsky was the strongest. He had Lenin's recommendation, but also powerful enemies.

Stalin allied with his old friends from Georgia, Lev Kamenev and Grigory Zinoviev. Together they broke Trotsky's power, then Stalin turned against his



LEV KAMENEV
sentenced to death by shooting in 1936.

allies. Kamenev and Zinoviev realised the danger and allied themselves with Trotsky, but it was too late. They left the Central Committee and were sentenced to death.

Editor of Pravda and Marxist theorist, Nikolai



GRIGORY ZINOVIEV
admits under torture that he is fascist.

Bukharin was one of Stalin's most faithful supporters. But in 1928, he opposed Stalin's forced industrialisation and was executed in 1938 for being too "right-wing".

In 1927 Leon Trotsky was expelled from the



NIKOLAI BUKHARIN
is judged as "right-wing" and executed.

Communist Party and driven to Kazakhstan. From here he went into exile in France, Norway, and finally Mexico. He continued his opposition to Stalin right up until his murder on the dictator's orders in 1940.



LEON TROTSKY was living in exile in Mexico where he was murdered by Ramon Mercader, an agent of the Soviet Intelligence Service, on 20th August, 1940. Mercader killed Trotsky with an ice pick.

SCANPIX/AGF-IMAGES

roof: humble beginnings for a man who would become one of the mightiest and most feared tyrants around the globe.

His parents were both free peasant serfs and young Joseph's identity papers from Tsarist time read, "Peasant from Gori in Tbilisi region."

His mother Ekaterina held the home together by working as a cleaner and laundress. His father Vissariaon – nicknamed "Beso" – was a violent and drunken tyrant who did not care much for his family. Without much success, he tried to earn a living as a shoemaker. As such, in later Soviet terminology he was considered "petty bourgeoisie", but fortunately for his son's revolutionary career, his business failed and he had to work at a shoe factory in the Georgian capital Tbilisi. Later and with some justification, Stalin boasted of his proletariat origins: an accolade that few senior figures in the Communist Party could boast of.

When Joseph was little, his father "Beso" beat him and also hit his wife, who in turn would fight back, trying to protect her only child Joseph. She had several pregnancies, but the children all died in childbirth.

Little Joseph gets run over

On several points, Stalin's childhood resembled Adolf Hitler's. Germany's later dictator also grew up with an abusive father and a doting mother. In many respects during the course of their lives, things were so similar that they almost became each other's mirror image.

As a child, Joseph went by the nickname "Soso" – a Georgian nickname for Joseph. Around the age of five, he got smallpox, and for the rest of life, his face was scarred. At one point, the boy was even run over by a horse-drawn carriage, which left him with a weakened left arm.

This exempted him from military service under the Tsar. He also suffered after-effects from a severe blood infection. And his many injuries meant that more recent, official pictures of the "Steel Man" had to be carefully retouched.

As an eight-year-old, Joseph went to a religious school in Gori. Despite his bad arm he was physically strong and allegedly a bit of a brawler. In school, he was clever and shone with an excellent memory, which people who came

across him later discovered – often with fatal consequences.

Soso was a very willing, strong and purposeful child. Apparently, he was not able to hold onto everyday relationships with his peers. He could only associate with other children if they bowed to his will. His goal was to be feared. A school friend also notes that Soso never cried and never showed any compassion for others. He was also quite without humour, which was and still is a major part of the Georgian character.

His school colleagues believed it was the effect of Beso's hard rule on his son that made Joseph so heartless.

In his spare time Joseph enjoyed the mountainous countryside around Gori. He loved the rugged landscape, but had no feelings for animals – his favourite pastime was throwing stones at birds. Later in life, he cultivated a special kind of hunting; shooting animals that were paralysed by a headlight's glare.

His favourite reading was not homework, but heroic novels about Georgian folk heroes. One of these heroes had the nickname "Koba" and it was the first of a long series of nicknames Joseph acquired – and demanded that those around him use.

Stalin would become a priest

The deeply alcoholic Beso left his family when Joseph was 10 years old; or maybe he was thrown out by his wife – it's not entirely clear.

It is said that at one point, Joseph went to Tbilisi and started an apprenticeship at the shoe factory where his father worked. If the story is true, Joseph's mother foiled the plan. She wanted Joseph in school and she got her way.

The short apprenticeship at the shoe factory was the only time when the "World's great proletariat leader" did any manual work. And also the last time that Joseph saw his father. Afterwards, the two had no further contact and his relationship with Beso was lost. Stalin came up with several explanations for his father's fate. He probably died in 1906.

Joseph's spent a few years longer in school than other children. Whether it was due to the serious traffic accident or his time at the shoe factory is not clear. Another disturbing element in Joseph's upbringing was a hated Tsarist regulation that prohibited anyone



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Stalin's mother Ekaterina complained that her son never became a priest. It probably amused the dictator.



SCANPRY/ANG-IMAGES

Teenage Stalin, baptised Joseph Dzhugashvili, was a good student in school, but neither his peers nor his teachers cared about him.

teaching the Georgian language: so pupils learned Russian as their new native tongue, which helped to foster a revolutionary and nationalist fervour among them.

As a schoolboy, Stalin was a defiant and difficult student, according to reputed Stalin biographer Robert C Tucker. Among his classmates, Stalin was more feared than respected, but ►



A young man in the service of revolution. Before 1917, Stalin stirred up socialism and was put in a Siberian camp several times.

CORBIS

academically he found himself to be the best in the class.

In any case, he was skilled enough that with his mother's intervention he received a modest scholarship. In 1894 it enabled him to move to Tbilisi and enrol at the Orthodox Theological Seminary. His mother fervently hoped that he would qualify for the priesthood. Many years later, when

Stalin was absolute ruler, he visited her in Georgia and she expressed her disappointment that he had never become a priest. It must have amused the dictator immensely.

It is more than doubtful whether Stalin ever shared his mother's ambitions on his behalf. But the seminary in Tbilisi was actually the only opportunity for a poor and talented boy to further his education in Georgia at this time. The Tsar's regime was not interested in creating universities that could serve as revolutionary hotbeds.

Wealthy Georgians preferred to send their sons to a university inside Russia. In this way, they hoped the regime would accept them as the new breed of Russians.

A school full of insurgents

The theological college had a loyal Russian leadership and the Georgian students were constantly at loggerheads with them to the extent that a rector had been stabbed to death by a student in the 1880s. The seminary was full of rebellious youths who had grabbed this single chance for an education – and had no interest in the seminary's religious premise. In fact, in the absence of a university, the seminary was just what authorities feared: an incubator for revolutionaries.

The seminary was a boarding school with strict discipline. The teaching beyond religion concentrated

on classical languages, history and mathematics, while modern languages and science were not on the timetable. Newspapers and secular novels were banned.

Students subsequently described the place as a mixture of military camp and prison. Violation of the rules was punished with solitary confinement in a prison cell.

Students stayed in the seminary buildings for most of the day, with a few hours each day where they could move freely outside. With this freedom many students formed secret study groups, among other things. Records show that Joseph Dzhughashvili was a rebellious student who was repeatedly punished for reading forbidden literature and showing disrespect to both teachers and management.

Raids on student rooms were frequent and management encouraged students to spy on each other. There is no conclusive evidence – but a strong suggestion – that at that time, Stalin was already adept at backing two horses and creating rivals among the students. Study comrades found him over-sensitive – even innocent teasing was answered with his fists.

Later, he said that the seminary and its "Jesuit" methods turned him into a revolutionary;

"They were spying on us, creeping into our souls and constantly provoking us", he said later. In a way, you could

Two wives, three children

Family did not mean much to Stalin, although he wept at his first wife's grave. His children were tortured.

When Stalin buried his first wife Kato, he was deeply affected. After only four years of marriage she died of illness. At the grave, Stalin predicted that he could never love again.

Together, they had a son, Iakob, but following Kato's death Stalin had little to do with him. During WWII, Iakob was captured by the Germans. Stalin did nothing to free

him. Iakob was tortured and probably committed suicide.

In 1932, Stalin's second wife, Nadezhda shot herself. He had two children with her, Vasily and Svetlana. Stalin loved his daughter greatly, but the relationship waned as she reached puberty. Svetlana emigrated to the United States in 1967, while Vasily drowned in 1962.



Stalin's eldest son Iakob was a German prisoner of war and his daughter emigrated to the United States.

CORBIS

say that he was a model student and learned their methods to perfection.

Stalin's route to revolution

Shortly after starting his priestly studies, Joseph had a dawning interest in Marxism and he joined a secret study group led by an older student. But Joseph was not the type to take part in something that someone else led. He quickly left the group and set up a rival one under his own leadership. The group managed to obtain a copy of Karl Marx's work "Das Kapital" – a Russian translation as Stalin had never learned German.

In 1898, the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party was formed. It was the pre-cursor to the Communist Party. And the same year, Joseph Dzhugashvili joined a Georgian group affiliated with the new party. The group called itself Mesame Dasi (Group Three) and was led by a former student from the seminary. The young revolutionaries also held meetings with disgruntled rail workers in Tbilisi.

In the beginning, Joseph was a good student but his revolutionary interests absorbed more and more of his time. He lost the motivation to complete his studies, and in 1899 he left the seminary without taking his exams. As the legend grew, Stalin said that he was expelled for Marxist activities. But there are indications that he had dropped so far behind in his studies and was in such strong opposition to the seminary management, that he chose to avoid expulsion by leaving on his own terms.

He left the seminary with a sound hatred towards it, the church, citizenship, the Tsar and to authority in general. Ironically, it has been said that Joseph later turned the entire Soviet Union into a bigger and more grotesque version of his seminary – with spying, intrigue, and denunciation and isolation cells. He replaced God with the party and himself as the absolute authority before adding labour camps, public trials, planned starvation and executions by firing squad in lieu of the troublesome teachers' repertoire. ■

Stalin's reign of fear and hunger

In terms of human life Joseph Stalin is one of history's worst despots. Up to 20 million people were killed during his tenure.

After training as a priest, Joseph Stalin started his revolutionary career. He tried to politically awaken the mining and railway workers. In 1902, Tsarist police arrested Stalin and banished him to Siberia. He was captured seven times before the revolution in 1917, but punishment was mild and the guards so lax that Stalin escaped and returned to the Caucasus several times. He continued his revolutionary activities and organised bank robberies to finance exiled Bolsheviks – including Lenin.

In 1912, Stalin was a member of the Bolsheviks' inner circle, the Central Committee, but due to his detention in the Siberian camps he didn't play a major role in the years leading up to the Bolshevik coup (October revolution) in 1917.

12 years later, he secured power over the party and Russia. Stalin began the forced industrialisation of agriculture. The farmers responded by slaughtering their animals and destroying the harvest. Stalin utilised the extensive famine to crack the farmers' resistance. About 10 million Russians died of hunger, and thousands were forced into

cannibalism. A recent census revealed a declining population.

Stalin built up the Siberian labour and penal camps (Gulags). Up until his death in 1953, at least one million inmates died of hunger, cold and physical abuse. During a party congress in 1934, over 100 of the 2,000 delegates failed to vote for Stalin. He sensed a conspiracy and initiated extensive cleansing. Then the "criminals and other anti-Soviet elements" – more than 75,000 were shot. In 1937, the Red Army purged their leadership: three out of five marshals were executed, 36,000 officers fired, imprisoned or shot.

Despite the non-aggression pact with Germany, Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in 1941. Stalin, who had heard all the warnings about the concentration of German troops, took command of the army.

After victory in 1945, the new Eastern European Communist states adopted Stalin's methods as he resumed purges throughout the Soviet Union. The party leadership in Leningrad is tortured and executed after they confessed to collaborating with the Germans during the war.



After his death in 1953 Stalin was embalmed – like his predecessor Lenin.

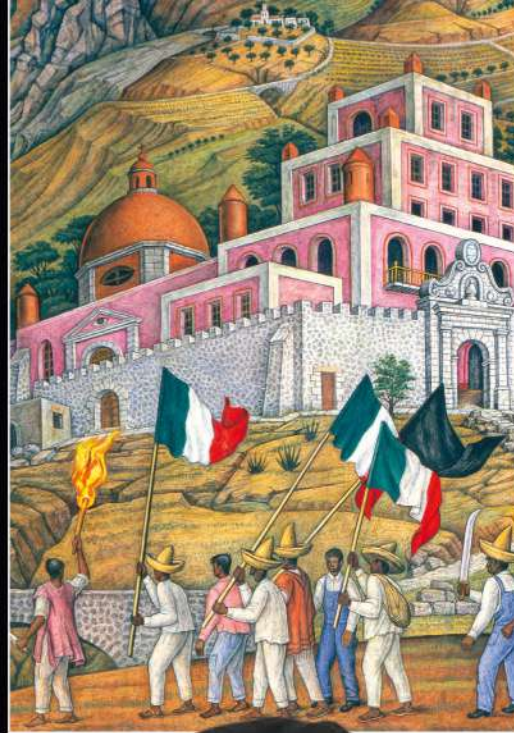
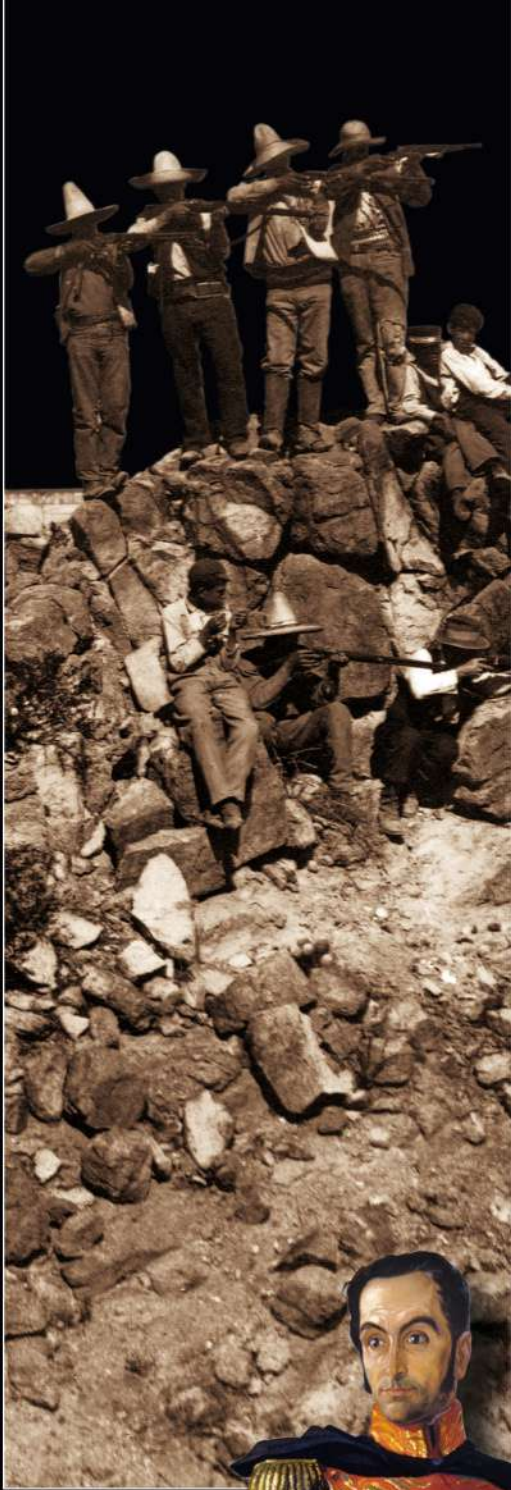
FURTHER READING

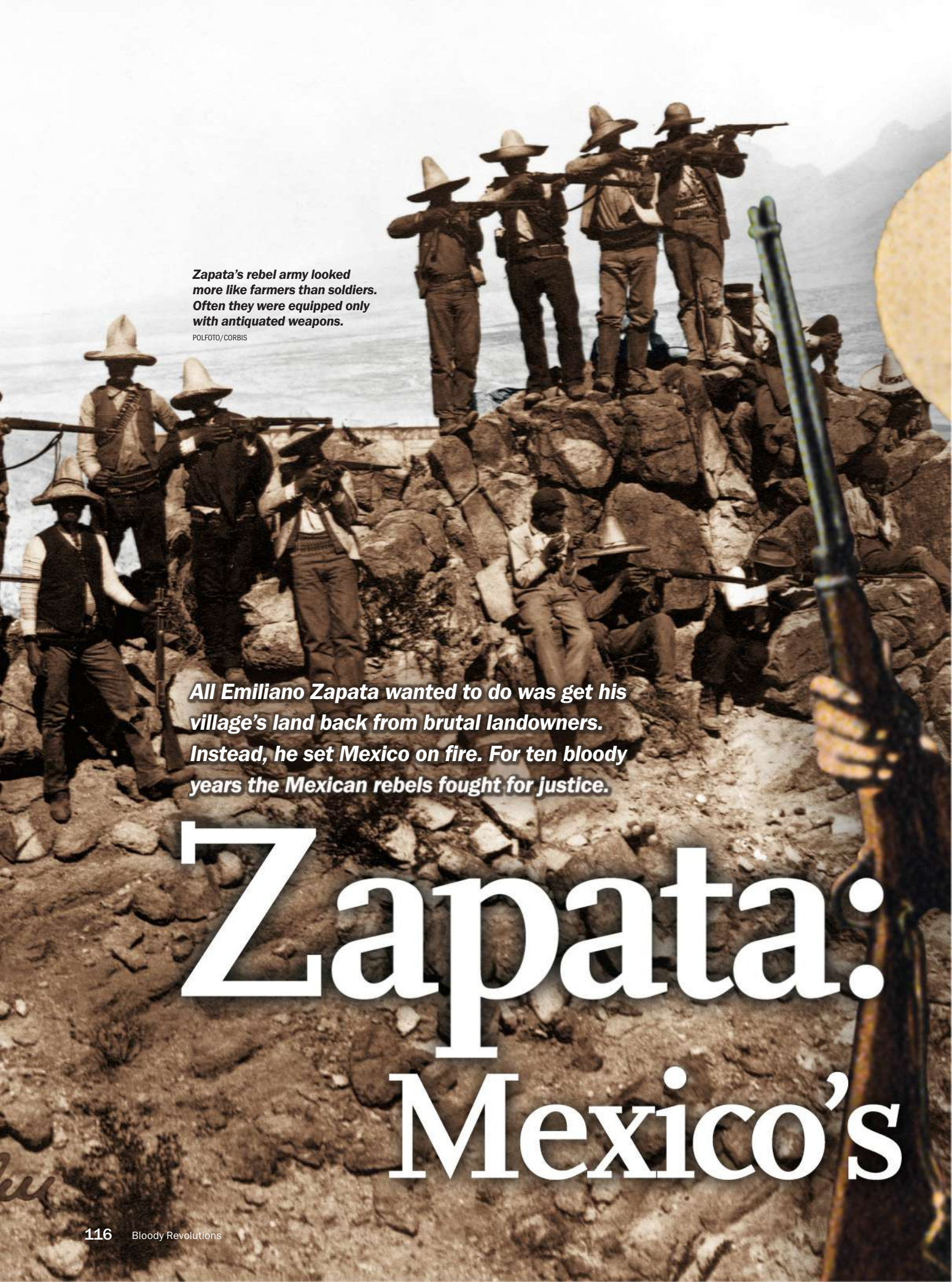
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LATIN AMERICA

REBELS WERE PEOPLE'S HEROES

In 1956, Fidel Castro led a depleted army of 20 rebels into Cuba to overthrow a dictatorship. The first small victories and popular support led to greater victories and eventually the rebels took Havana. But Castro was just one in a long line of peoples' champions that have overthrown dictators in Latin America.





Zapata's rebel army looked more like farmers than soldiers. Often they were equipped only with antiquated weapons.

POLFO/COBIS

All Emiliano Zapata wanted to do was get his village's land back from brutal landowners. Instead, he set Mexico on fire. For ten bloody years the Mexican rebels fought for justice.

Zapata: Mexico's

MEXICO 1910

In 1910, the ageing dictator Porfirio Díaz had been in power for 34 years. Social inequality is rampant and many farmers are living in poor conditions as bonded labourers for large landowners.



Emiliano Zapata

BY HANS HENRIK FAFNER

For several hours the group of men have waited hesitantly outside an estate in southern Mexico. Their captain, rebel leader Emiliano Zapata, is meeting with a colonel from the government army. Colonel Jesús Guajardo announces that he will face the rebels with his whole regiment.

Zapata desperately needs soldiers and ammunition as he has tirelessly fought for land reform for nine years.

The gate to the estate opens. One of the colonel's men announces that dinner and cold beer are waiting inside. Zapata doesn't trust the situation yet he selects ten men and rides in.

A guard of honour stands ready to greet Zapata. They fire two shots in salute, but after a third shot is fired they level their guns against Zapata. It's an ambush, organised by the president. A flurry of bullets strikes Zapata, who is dead before he hits the ground. The Revolution's greatest hero is dead.

Landowner's violence

When the revolution broke out nine years earlier in 1910, Díaz had held a solid grip on power for 34 years. His recipe for managing the country was a combination of bribery, brutal repression of ►

Robin Hood

Mexico's peasants and workers, and elimination of anyone in his way.

In the cities, factory workers lived in miserable conditions and with a daily income so small that they could barely feed their families. Life was no better in the country. Some farmers still owned land, but landlords confiscated more

and more. If the peasants dared to protest, the landlords would set fire to or flood their villages. Then the peasants' only way of survival was to work for the landowner. On the estates where they worked they could only buy goods at exorbitant prices and many landowners were not afraid to fiddle

their wages to make sure that workers quickly became their debt-slave.

It was not uncommon for landlords to sell

workers between each other and

many also used their freedom to

take up the "droit de

seigneur" – the right to

take the virginity of any woman

on the estate. If the debt-slaves

tried to escape, they were chased by

rurales – President Díaz's

paramilitary corps, who beat them to death to

set an example.

A fatal error

Mexico's impoverished population had lived in Díaz's iron grip for 32 years when he inadvertently signalled the start of the revolution. In 1908, he was interviewed by an American journalist and in a moment of rashness, he announced that

Mexico was now ready for a

democratic government. At the same time he announced that he would stand for election in 1910 and encouraged new candidates to come forward.

Díaz did not believe a word he said and figured it unlikely that anyone would dare challenge his power. But resistance came in an unexpected form.

Francisco Madero was a small man with a thin goatee covering his receding chin. He was a vegetarian, spiritualist and also the son of one of Mexico's wealthiest families.

Madero believed himself to be a medium that was regularly contacted by spirits, including his brother, who had died when he was four years old. In 1908, the spirits sent Madero a message saying that he would face a great national task.

In his home town, Madero had witnessed how Díaz's rurales had brutally dissolved a demonstration and was convinced that the spirits wanted him to establish democracy and tolerable conditions for the poor in Mexico. He spent some of his personal fortune buying opposition newspapers, describing his vision and ambition to become Mexico's new president. Because of his family circumstances, Díaz could not simply eliminate him as he usually did his opponents.

Madero's political promises of social justice resonated and he was greeted by much excitement when in 1910 he travelled across the country. Díaz was terrified and on the day of the election he imprisoned Madero for calling for an armed rebellion. Once again, Díaz could relax as president, but Madero's words had started an avalanche.

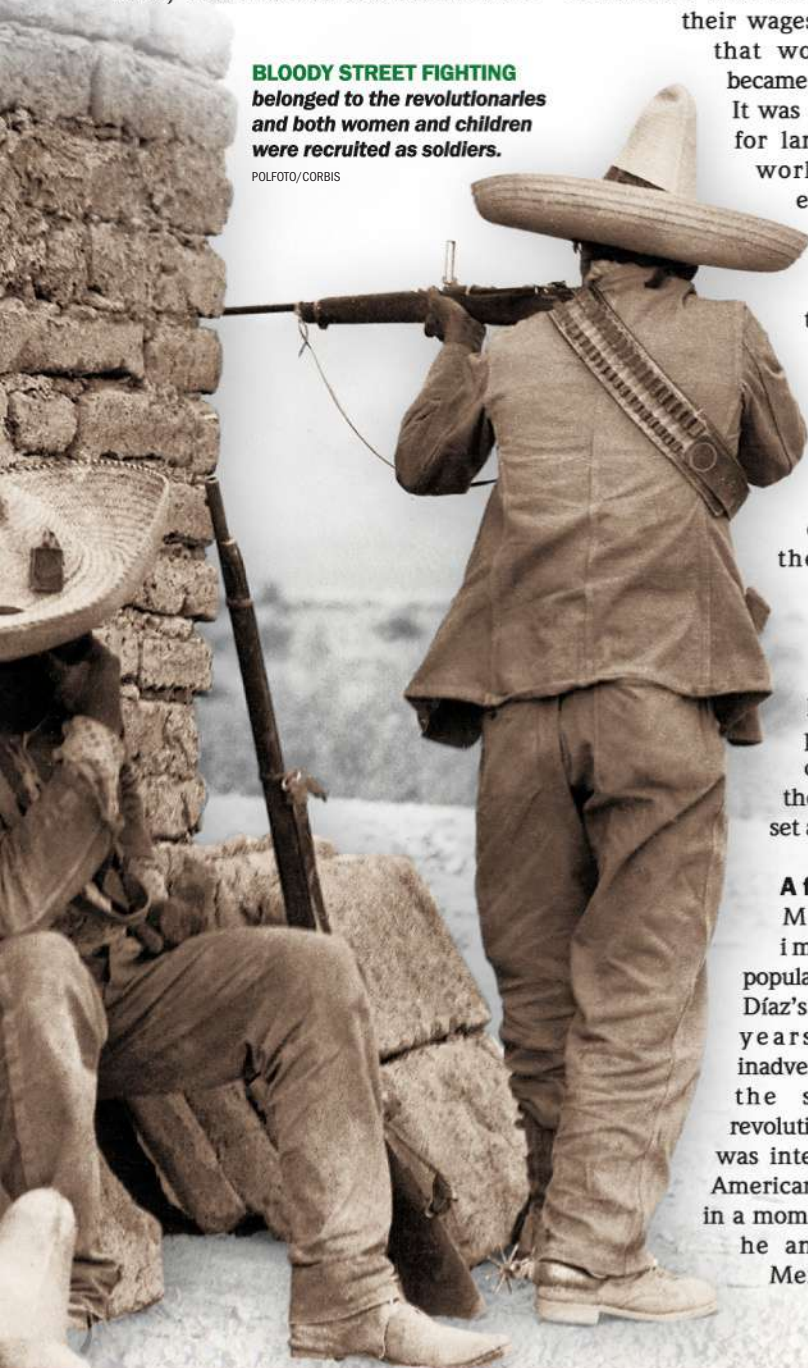
Zapata took up the fight

Emiliano Zapata had followed Madero's election campaign with a particular interest. Despite only being 31 years old, Zapata had been elected as the village leader in Anenecuilco in the state of Morelos.

Zapata came from one of the village's relatively well-off families and made a

BLOODY STREET FIGHTING
belonged to the revolutionaries
and both women and children
were recruited as soldiers.

POLFOTO/CORBIS



Bloody power struggle

Changing political factions and alliances fight against each other in Mexico's long and bloody revolution.

1910

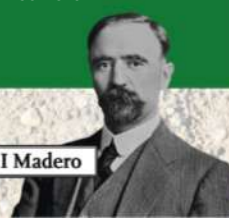
PORFIRIO DÍAZ manipulates his re-election as president on 8th July. His rival, FRANCISCO MADERO, is imprisoned, and then escapes to Texas, where he plans a revolution.

1911

The uprising sets the country alight and President Díaz goes into exile. Madero returns from Texas and declares himself the rightful president.



Porfirio Díaz



Francisco I Madero

4 **REBELS** followed Madero's call to revolution on 20th November, 1910.

2 **FRANCISCO MADERO** began his campaign for the presidency in 1909, receiving great popular support. He fled to Texas, where on 20th November, 1910; he declared that the revolution had begun.

1 **DICTATOR PORFIRIO DÍAZ** stated that he would listen to the people and hold a democratic election. Later he had his rival candidate Madero imprisoned.

3 **EMILIANO ZAPATA** followed Madero's election campaign. In the spring of 1910, he headed a rebellion against local landowners.

The Revolution began here

For 34 years, Mexico's population lived under a hard-line dictatorship – then a young presidential candidate challenged the status quo and set the country alight.

living from his ten working mules. He was a short, swarthy man of mixed Indian and white descent with a narrow face and an impressive moustache. He dressed elegantly, in a huge sombrero and silver buttons on his jacket, but despite the dandified looks, he was a modest and reticent man, respected in the village; he was also renowned as an awe-inspiring rider.

One of his favourite sports was to close a wild horse into an enclosure where it was taunted by Charros – Mexican cowboys on horseback. The rider jumped onto the horse bareback and the horse's legs were bound. Reportedly, no one in Mexico could match Zapata in this art.

In addition to his passion for horses, Zapata had a heartfelt love of his ancestral home. Zapata had seen how landowners had set entire villages on fire and knew it was only a matter of time before his village, Anenecuilco, had to surrender. Local landowners had already seized much of the village's land, and the rural council's attempts to retrieve it using legal means had been unsuccessful. The Government said that

it was a matter between the village and the landowner.

Zapata goes to war

In the spring of 1910, Zapata had had enough. He gathered an army of 80 men, armed them and took back the village's land by force. Surprisingly, the presidential rurales never appeared. They would normally have made short work of the rebellious peasants, but President Díaz had other problems.

While the peasants in Anenecuilco celebrated their victory, the presidential candidate Madero escaped from prison to Texas in the United States. From here he wrote flyers that he was Mexico's legitimate president and that the revolution would begin on Sunday, 20th November at 18.00 when Madero would cross the border into Mexico with a force of 400 men. This did not happen and a disappointed Madero had to abandon his project. But the Mexican population had heard his words.

The revolt spreads

On 20th November, 1910, rebels from the northern province of Chihuahua

heeded Madero's call. In the south, other peasants followed Zapata's example to take their country back.

By 1911, they had reclaimed 18 of the 31 Mexican states and Díaz realised his defeat and went into exile in France.

Madero secured power in the presidential palace and the revolutionaries laid down their arms. Zapata gave his full support for Madero, whose words had inspired him to rebel against the landowners. Therefore, Zapata felt sure that justice would now be served and told a journalist that he would disarm his men so he could go back to till his fields. Zapata said:

"The only thing I wanted when I joined the revolution was to defeat the dictatorial regime. I have succeeded".

Madero and Zapata are at odds

During the fight against Díaz the two men had seemed inseparable, yet it soon became clear there was a conflict.

Madero's plans were confused and he had no plans for fundamental

1912

Rebel leaders in the north, VILLA and OROZCO, who once fought side by side, are at war with each other.

1913

General VICTORIANO HUERTA takes power during the Ten Tragic Days (9th-19th February) and murders President Madero. The dictatorship is back.

1914

Dictator HUERTA loses control over the country, and rebels fight against him and each other. Huerta goes into exile and the country is controlled by ever-changing leaders.

Pancho Villa

Pasqual Orozco

Victoriano Huerta



WOMEN OFTEN FOLLOWED

their men in the revolution as "soldaderas" – either in a supporting civilian role or as full-blown soldiers.

POLFO/ORBIS

between 9th-19th February, 1913 – where

the brutal and drunken General Huerta defeated President Madero's forces. Huerta, nicknamed the Jackal, shot Madero on the spot.

Zapata refused to acknowledge the brutal general, who then made every effort to overcome the tenacious rebel.

Zapata's victory

Huerta considered deporting all Morelos' civilian population, whom he suspected of being Zapata sympathisers, burning their villages and letting a new population settle. The dramatic announcement sent people in their hundreds to join Zapata, who was now so strong that on 23rd April, 1913 he ventured a frontal attack on Huerta's garrison of 500 men in the town of Jonacatepec. After 36 hours, the city fell and Zapata secured the garrison's huge supply of weapons.

Inspired by Zapata's success in the south, an uprising against Huerta flared in the north. Rebel leaders took a stand against both Huerta and each other, turning Mexico into a slaughterhouse. Because of Huerta's inability as president, the economy plummeted and the civilian population suffered from starvation and disease that became epidemics.

On 15th July, 1914 Huerta realised that the game was over and fled the country. In subsequent years, one weak leader followed another and it wasn't until 1917 that the revolutionaries succeeded in placing the former governor, Venustiano Carranza, as the new president.

Zapata had not been involved in the fighting in the north for several years and

change. On the other hand, Zapata had struggled to establish concrete land reforms. Like many other revolutionaries, Zapata believed that he had been betrayed by his idol; it felt like the peasants in Morelos had been sidelined in favour of the status quo, and Zapata picked up his weapons again. Madero hoped that the two men would find common ground, and in 1911, he sent a man to negotiate with Zapata. But the reaction was bitter:

"I've been Madero's most faithful supporter. But I'm not anymore. Madero has betrayed me, my army, the people of Morelos and the entire nation". Zapata had a specific message for Madero:

"Tell him this: in a month I will be in Mexico City with 20,000 men and will have the pleasure of going to

Chapultepec Castle (the presidential residence), and I'll drag him out and hang him from one of the tallest trees in the park".

The possibility of a peaceful solution was nonexistent, and once more war broke out in Morelos. The fighting was raging and spread quickly to other states in the south and a new military commander-in-chief, Juvencio Robles, was deployed.

Robles had learned his brutal methods under the dictator Díaz, and Madero had difficulty controlling Robles, who was nicknamed "The Torch" because he liked burning down villages he suspected of collaborating with revolutionaries. Even Zapata was given a nickname, "Southern Attila", because he always executed his prisoners.

Madero's regime culminated with Decena Tragica – the ten tragic days

1915

"Years of famine" – the warring factions have undermined the country's economy and the people are starving.

1916

Revolution develops into a war between two rebel leaders, EMILIANO ZAPATA and VENUSTIANO CARRANZA. In the north US General JOHN J PERSHING defeats PANCHO VILLA, but has to give up after 11 months.

1917

CARRANZA is elected president, but ZAPATA refuses to recognize him and the war continues.



John J Pershing



Venustiano Carranza

had settled in the village Tlaltizapán in Morelos, where he tried to implement his vision for local democracy and shared ownership of the land, whereby food prices fell and locals grew produce largely for themselves. Zapata harboured only hope for President Carranza. But when his new constitution, which otherwise contained many promises of social justice, did not mention a word about land reform, Zapata declared war against the regime again.

Over the next two years turmoil reigned once more in Morelos. The regime's troops were attacked and government officials were lined up and killed. One bounty after another was raffled off, without result; the population obstinately refused to hand over the now legendary Zapata.

In 1919, Guajardo was imprisoned because he was drunk on duty. Zapata wrote to him in prison and urged him to join the rebels. But the letter was intercepted by guards, and Guajardo was given the choice to lure Zapata into a trap or be executed for treason. He chose the former, and on 10th April, 1919, Zapata was the victim of an ambush.

The next day, Zapata's body was displayed in the square in the nearby town of Cuautla. At first the people refused to believe that their leader could be dead. But in the weeks that followed the truth became apparent. Zapata's army disintegrated and Morelos was captured by government forces.

On 21st May, 1920, President Carranza was killed in an attack and the new president, former rebel leader Álvaro Obrégón, declared the revolution over. Zapata's land reform was never implemented. ■

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Zapata did not get his land reform, but has since inspired the indigenous population's struggle for a better life.



Zapata sympathisers still fight for his cause

Today a Mexican rebel movement still hopes that Emiliano Zapata's land reforms will one day become a reality.

100 years ago, Emiliano Zapata began his struggle for social justice for the country's farmers. But Mexico's poorest population is still struggling against the great social inequality that characterises the country, and for basic rights such as medical care and schooling.

In the 1990s, Indian rebels in Chiapas in southern Mexico started to battle against the Mexican government under the name The Zapatista National Liberation, or Zapatistas. They became internationally known when on 1st January, 1994, they occupied several villages in Chiapas. The Mexican government called in the military, 150 civilians died and the Zapatistas fled into the jungle.

Chiapas is very rich in natural resources yet the largest portion of the Indian population still live below the poverty line. Many are malnourished and few children receive an education.

Zapatistas especially gain support from the poor Indian rural population. Their leader, Subcomandante Marcos, is often depicted on murales, traditional Mexican murals on the country's urban walls, side by side with Emiliano Zapata.

Zapatistas are in favour of local self-government and fight for equal rights. They have not taken up arms since 1994, but are trying to change the Indians' situation by political means. So far, they have failed to improve conditions appreciably.

1918

Thousands of Mexicans die from the influenza epidemic "Spanish Flu", which puts a damper on the fighting.

1919

ZAPATA is lured into a trap and killed. Shortly after his death his army dissolves. The year after, the man responsible for the murder of Zapata is assassinated.

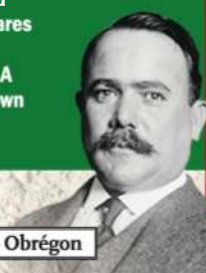
Zapata's body was put on display to the people of Morelos.



1920

OBRÉGÓN is elected president and declares the revolution over when PANCHO VILLA is the last to put down his arms.

Álvaro Obrégón





Pancho Villa began as horse thief, but worked his way to a position as Mexico's most colourful revolutionary hero.

SCANPIX/CORBIS

Horse thief from Mexico invades the USA

Without warning, 500 Mexicans led by revolutionary hero Pancho Villa strike a US fort. The United States is in shock and sends 10,000 troops into Mexico to capture the rebel. But they don't succeed.

MEXICO AND USA/1916



Power in Mexico changes quickly – with one coup following another, rebel armies thrive. The United States consider their poor neighbour as an opportunity for profitable business. No American dream will stop the unrest spreading north.

BY THOMAS HEE
Shortly before dawn on 9th March, 1916, the American garrison in the border town of Columbus is woken by crashing rifle shots and wild cries: “Viva Mexico! Viva Villa! Muerte a los americanos”, shout the Mexican rebels – death to Americans.

Led by the legendary rebel Pancho Villa, 500 armed Mexicans cross the border in the cover of night and attack the small fort in New Mexico.

The attack is totally unexpected. American officers are at home with their families, and the regular soldiers are asleep in the barracks. Fortunately for the garrison, the Mexican attack is as

badly planned as it is surprising. The Mexicans open fire immediately on anything they think is the soldiers’ barracks – in fact, it’s the garrison’s stables. The misunderstanding gives the Americans some crucial minutes to set up a counter-attack with heavy machine-gun fire.

The attackers retreat to Columbus, where they continue shooting at civilians who are drawn out into the streets. Darkness makes it impossible for US troops to distinguish the townspeople from the enemy. When a group of Mexicans have the dubious idea to set fire to the local hotel, the ►

At the head of his motley rebel army, Villa sneaked over the border and attacked an American fort.

SCANPIX/CORBIS





In 1914 rebel leaders Villa and Zapata headed into Mexico City.

Rigged election started revolution

Much hated President Díaz called an election and got 99 percent of votes.

Election-rigging launched Mexico into 25 years of coup and bloody civil war.

In 1910, Mexico was split with deep social divisions: land owners monopolised the fertile ground, and a small group of – mainly American – businessmen acquired treasures from the country's mineral-rich

deposits, while most of the population lived in poverty.

Therefore the people took some hope, when **President Porfirio Díaz** called an election in 1910. The liberal rival candidate **Francisco Madero** won the people's

support, but on election day Díaz proclaimed himself the winner with 99 percent of the votes.

Following this blatant electoral fraud, people rose up in protest – led by rebel **Emiliano Zapata** in the

south and **Pancho Villa** in the north.

Díaz was overthrown and went into exile in France. Madero was subsequently inaugurated, but failed to reach an agreement about Mexico's future with the rebel leaders.

In 1913, Madero was assassinated by **General Huerta**, who was overthrown the following year and replaced by **Venustiano Carranza**.

Carranza collaborated with the Americans and tried to stabilise the country. He had Emiliano Zapata assassinated and tried to stop Villa. But in 1920, he himself was killed by one of his generals.

New president, **Álvaro Obregón**, implemented social reform and was probably behind Villa's assassination.

Then the Nationalist Mexican Party was founded, which continued to work on reforms and created relative calm in the troubled country during the 1930s.

entire village lights up, giving Americans the opportunity to pursue the Mexicans back across the border.

When morning dawns, the bodies of 17 Americans are found in Columbus's streets – along with 100 dead Mexicans.

US retaliates by crossing border

The attack on Columbus was averted as the Mexicans had been a poorly armed and talentless enemy, but in spite of this, they left the United States in a state of shock. Not since the British-American war in 1812 had anyone dared to attack United States territory.

In Washington, the attack worried President Woodrow Wilson. The United States was heading into WWI and Wilson had no interest in using his military forces on the nation's southern border. He was aware that an American incursion into Mexico could easily lead

to a war with its southern neighbour. Nevertheless, Wilson recognised the peoples' need to do something about the "bandit nation" Mexico. Two months before, Pancho Villa had massacred 17 American businessmen who were negotiating a mining concession with the Mexican Government. With the presidential election just a few months away, Wilson took action. He decided to send General John J Pershing over the border into Mexico with 10,000 men to capture Pancho Villa.

Mexican President Venustiano Carranza sent his troops north. He too wanted Pancho Villa out of the way – and to beat the Americans back if they ventured any farther into Mexico.

Now Pancho Villa was sandwiched between two armies, yet it was part of his reasons for attacking Columbus: he

would provoke a US attack to strengthen his own, faded reputation.

Villa had controlled Mexico's northern province of Chihuahua. The people worshipped him and his army amounted to thousands of soldiers, but his support suffered a serious setback in 1915 when President Carranza succeeded in crushing the Rebel army.

People turned their backs on him, and in the spring of 1916, Pancho Villa's army was only slightly larger than the 500 beleaguered soldiers who rode with him across the border to Columbus. After the attack on the United States they started to support him again and in a short time, Pancho Villa had a powerful army once more.

Bandit is impossible to catch

Despite American and Mexican military superiority it would prove impossible to



The Mexicans' attack on the American garrison town of Columbus was short but brutal. Soldiers fled back across the border, leaving 100 of their comrades dead.

capture Pancho Villa. He knew Chihuahua's highlands from his many years as a horse thief and revolutionary. The Americans occupied the north of the province, but fear of a war with Mexico forced Pershing to hand the job over to Carranza.

Pershing's hope was that the Mexican president would overcome Pancho Villa, but news of the US invasion spread like wildfire throughout the government's army and many of Carranza's men refused to fight against Villa as long as the Americans were still in the country. Several of them even deserted and joined Pancho Villa.

Pancho Villa defeats President

Among Mexicans, Pancho Villa was regarded as a living Robin Hood who fought against injustice and exploitation. He also mastered the art of strategy which he proved in 1916 on Mexican Independence Day – 16th September – in Chihuahua City.

President Carranza had 9,000 men in the city, while 10,000 well-armed American soldiers camped close by. The mood in the city was high and the party underway when Villa's 2,000 men slipped into the city in the shadow of the festivities. Rumours of an impending attack spread, but nobody took notice and the troops continued celebrating.

Shortly after midnight, a familiar war cry rang through the streets – “Viva Villa!” – and the party turned into an inferno of gunfire and gunpowder. Pancho Villa attacked the city prison, killing the guards and freeing all political prisoners and opponents of Carranza. The rebels escaped without loss. The myth of Pancho Villa grew.

Americans tried to poison him

Over the year, General Pershing had tried to capture Pancho Villa, and then

President Wilson lost patience and recalled the American soldiers. They were needed in Europe, where WWI was raging.

However, before their retreat in February 1917, the United States made one last attempt to stop the hated rebel completely. A US officer contacted two waiters who were close to Villa. The officer gave them a strong, slow-acting poison that they put in his coffee.

The two waiters managed to serve Villa a poisoned cup of coffee, but the old horse thief was constantly on guard. He poured half of the coffee into one of his men's cup, and both got away with taking half the intended dose.

A rebel retires

With the Americans out of the picture, a long and vicious civil war began between Carranza and Villa. In turn, each experienced huge defeats and the tense situation accelerated the bloody conflict. Prisoners of war were executed without mercy. Villa had the habit of shooting prisoners while Carranza's

prisoners dangled at the end of a rope as a warning to everyone who supported the rebels. In 1920, the feud came to an abrupt end when the president was the victim of a coup. Next, Pancho Villa made a lucrative deal with the country's new ruler and retired from his life as a revolutionary. At 42 years old, he became a land owner – a social class he had fiercely fought against throughout his life.

Nine deadly shots

On 20th July, 1923, Villa was high spirits. He was on his way back to his ranch after standing as godfather for a friend's newborn son. The old horse thief was sat behind the wheel of his car when as a man waved to him.

“Viva Villa!” the man shouted.

Villa waved back cheerfully without knowing that the cry was the signal to a handful of armed men waiting ahead.

In the next moments, shots rained down on the car. Villa's driver who was in the passenger seat, died. Only one of the three bodyguards survived and would later tell that Pancho Villa died instantly, hit by nine bullets.

It was never revealed who was behind the attack, but it is thought that the man behind his murder was Mexico's new president, Álvaro Obregón, who was not comfortable with the retired rebel.

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Rebel leader was only 45 years old

Pancho Villa (born José Doroteo Arango Arámbula) began his career with a murder. When he was 16 years old he shot the local land owner – allegedly because he had raped Villa's 12-year-old sister.

Pancho had to leave his home and hide in the mountains where he led a gang of desperados who stole horses and cattle.

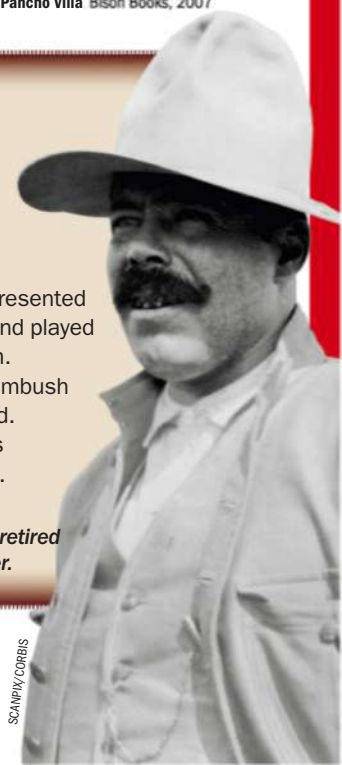
After a few years, he led a rebel army in Chihuahua and after 10 years of fighting was arrested by the Mexican

authorities. Yet, he was spared a death sentence.

Hollywood has shown great interest in Pancho Villa – he is represented in more than 30 films and played himself in three of them.

Villa was shot in an ambush and died at 45 years old. Thousands of Mexicans turned up to his funeral.

42-year-old Pancho Villa retired and became a land owner.



Mexico's long revolution

BY PALLE VIBE

A spontaneous protest movement in 1910 against Mexico's 70-year dictatorship develops into a gruelling revolt that lasts more than 10 years.

The Revolution is supported by a handful of enterprising men who want better conditions for Mexico's poor and downtrodden population. But personal ambition and lack of central management puts the country into a state of one violent conflict after another.

1910

Elite in power

Under General **Porfirio Díaz'** 35-year rule, peasants and workers are living in poverty. The country's land owners sit on 95 percent of all rural areas and the social divide is enormous.

The desire for a change in power has become essential. Young politician **Francisco Madero** is running against the president in the election of 1910. But Díaz has him arrested using false accusations that Madero is planning an armed rebellion and claims victory.

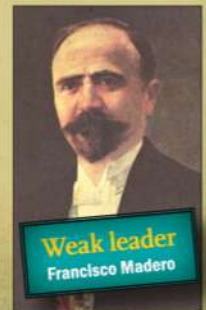


1911-1913

Reform comes slowly

The rebel leader Madero and his revolutionary forces turn the president's army and force Díaz to resign. A new election ensures Francisco Madero a large majority and he heads a new government.

But the new president is reluctant to introduce the necessary changes and loses his support. Revolutionary leaders Emiliano Zapata and Pascual Orozco are both disappointed with his policies and try to implement land reform by force.



2010: BICENTENAIRE DU MEXIQUE

1914

United in hatred

Two new men war among themselves. One is the politician, **General Álvaro Obregón**. The other is landowner's son **Venustiano Carranza**.

The two unite with rebel leaders Villa and Zapata in a common struggle against President Huerta.

After several defeats, the government army gives up and Huerta flees to Spain and then the US, where he tries to incite a counter-revolution.

The politician
Álvaro Obregón

1915-1916

Infighting reigns

With Huerta gone, hostility simmers between the four revolutionary leaders.

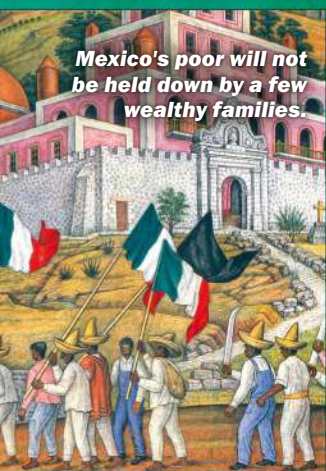
After a short transition with a provisional government, Carranza is recognised as leader with support from the US president. Revolutionary leaders Zapata and Villa challenge his new position creating more bitter clashes between zapatistas and Villa's men on one side and Carranza's Constitutionals – led by General and politician Álvaro Obregón – on the other.

Villa and Zapata start losing ground and are forced to retreat.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

1911



Mexico's poor will not be held down by a few wealthy families.

MUSEO DEL TEMPLO DE SANTO DOMINGO DE GIZMAN & B. SCHUNKWITZ/SCALA

Rebellion grows

The sound of the revolutionary drums gets louder. One of the most prominent is **Emiliano Zapata**, who previously occupied the land of large estates and distributed it between local villagers. His guerrilla army, the Zapatistas, initiate the rebellion in the south. They fight for the poor farmers' rights and for a fairer land distribution.

To the north another revolutionary, José Doroteo Arango Arámbula, known as **Pancho Villa**, incites his own rebellion. Villa uses Pascual Orozco, with his own army of disgruntled workers, indians and peasants. The Rebel leaders' guerrilla tactics greatly frustrate the Government's army.

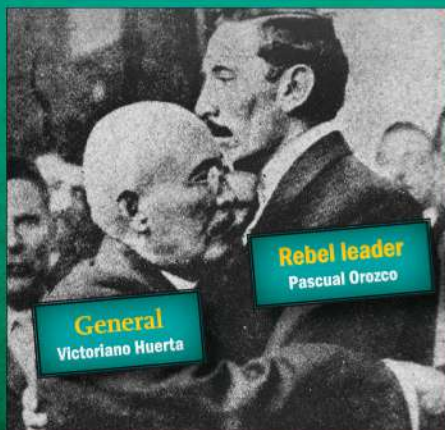


Rebel
Emiliano Zapata

There were both men and women in Zapata's rebellion. His motto was: "It is better to die standing than to live crawling".

PEYTON WRIGHT/1STLIBS.COM

1913



Unexpected allies

President Madero seeks the help of the former dictator's army general Victoriano Huerta.

The alliance backfires. In 1913, Huerta becomes President following a coup and Francisco Madero is murdered.

Huerta is unpopular among the population, who see him as a dictator. In desperation, he offers Pascual Orozco the post of General to garner his military support.

Rebel leader
Pascual Orozco

General
Victoriano Huerta

1917-1919



The people of Mexico are hostages to the revolutionary power struggles.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Carranza at the top

With revolutionary leaders Villa and Zapata in a less prominent role, the revolution ebbs away.

President Carranza wins support with the promise of a new constitution and social reforms, and Zapata is assassinated in 1919.



Elected representative
Venustiano Carranza

1920-1930s

A long-awaited peace

President Carranza can't hold on power. In 1920, he dies in a rebel attack led by his former supporter Obregón, who himself takes over the presidency.

Obregón is murdered in 1928, and it's not until the 1930s that Mexico is again stable after many years of political and social unrest.

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Guerilla
Pancho Villa

Villa is assassinated by President Obregón in 1923.



REBELS DEPOSE

It is 1956, and rebel leader Fidel Castro attempts once again to overthrow the hated Cuban dictator Batista. From just 20 rebels his army grows to thousands, and soon Batista realises that his days as president are numbered. Discover the dramatic story from those who experienced it.

After several unsuccessful attempts, Fidel Castro's rebel forces finally take over. The regime succumbs, and the rebels march triumphantly into Havana.

LESTER COLE/CORBIS & BETTMANN/CORBIS

CUBA/1959

The self-proclaimed Head of State Batista has turned Cuba into a holiday island for Americans. In the countryside, people have little food, and no schools or doctors. Resistance against Batista turns into a revolution led by Castro.



CUBA'S DICTATOR



BY EBBE RASCH

Change in Cuba often comes from the sea. In October 1492, Christopher Columbus' fleet arrived in Cuba and began a new chapter in world history. In 1895, José Martí sailed to Cuba and started a war that freed the country from Spanish colonialists. On 2nd December, 1956, 82 bearded men approach the Cuban coast in a leaky boat.

The boat is called *Granma*, and their leader is Fidel Castro. The battered boat does not look like much, but Castro and his companions have big ambitions. Seven days earlier, they had sailed from Mexico to start a revolution in Cuba and overthrow the dictator Batista. The journey is not really going as planned. The trip across the ocean has been hard on the 18-metre-long, 12-person *Granma*. The rebels have loaded it to the brim with weapons and ammunition. The boat crawls along so slowly that Castro and his comrades are already 48 hours behind schedule.

The radio on board does not work, so they can not get in touch with their comrades waiting on shore. *Granma* is even running out of fuel, so the captain, Norberto Collado Abreu, heads towards

the nearest coast: Playa las Coloradas. It is a poor place to land.

The marshy coastline is covered with reeds and the exhausted rebels are unable to lug their heavy weapons onto land. They know that government soldiers are on their tail, so they leave their boat hastily and head into the countryside towards the Sierra Maestra Mountains and the city of Santiago de Cuba in the poor eastern province.

Batista's people lived in lap of luxury

Santiago is Cuba's second largest city, but the country's wealth is far from evenly distributed. In the capital Havana most people have doctors, schools and food. Money comes from American tourists staying at luxury hotels, playing in casinos and spending a fortune on rum and cigars. President Batista's



RALPH MORSE/GETTY IMAGES

American mobsters had turned Havana into a holiday paradise for wealthy Americans.

Power connections in Cuba

For decades, military man Batista had been Cuba's main man. He had very close relations with both the US government and hard-headed gangsters.

Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar (1901-1973) was behind a Cuban military coup making him Army Chief-of-Staff in 1933. During successive governments, Batista controlled Cuba and had an excellent relationship with both the government and mafia in the United States.

From 1940-44, he was self-appointed President. In the elections of 1952, he ran again but when polls showed he had lost, he retained power in a coup. In 1959, Batista fled to the Dominican Republic and was later employed by a Spanish insurance company.



Meyer Lansky (1902-1983) along with Charles "Lucky" Luciano and Bugsy Siegel, was one of America's most notorious gangsters. In 1930, Lansky was in contact with

Batista. Lansky did as he wished in Cuba and ran several casinos and hotels that brought wealthy Americans to Havana.

As Castro's rebels approached the capital on 31st December, 1958, Batista ensured Meyer Lansky was quickly flown out of the country.

Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista had seized power in a military coup in 1952.

BETTSMANN/CORBIS

regime has good contacts with the US government and the American underworld, and the mobster Meyer Lansky has made Havana the Caribbean's answer to Las Vegas.

While Batista's henchmen run around polishing American cars, the number of impoverished workers in the US-owned sugar mills grows. Outside the capital, poverty is widespread. People are starving, child mortality is high, and many children are working hard in the fields.

Those who do not make money in Batista's regime are becoming tired of the general who took presidential office in a military coup in 1952.

Batista was democratically elected and very a popular president in 1940-44 and he was re-nominated for election in 1952. However a poll published shortly before the election showed that Batista was not the most popular candidate and he carried out a coup so he wouldn't

lose the election. At the time, Fidel Castro was working as a lawyer in a small office in Havana and decided to stand for election. He was active in the opposition party Partido Ortodoxo who, since 1947, had fought against widespread corruption in the state and wanted to implement reforms to improve the situation for the rural population. But Batista's coup foiled Castro's political ambitions.

First attack failed

In Havana, Castro met many of Batista's opponents and they decided to take up arms to overthrow the dictator. On 26th July, 1953, they were ready for action: an attack on the Moncada barracks in Santiago and a smaller military barracks in Bayamo. The rebels stole weapons for the attack and at dawn they advanced. However, both attacks failed and proved fatal. A

total of 160 rebels were discovered before they made the surprise attack. Government soldiers killed 61 rebels.

Other rebels – including Fidel Castro and his brother Raúl – fled and hid in the rugged Sierra Maestra mountains, but soon government troops found them and took them prisoner. Fidel's personal contacts in the military came to the rescue and stopped Fidel from being shot by his captors, and in the subsequent

dramatic trial, Fidel Castro defended himself. Before sentencing, he made the famous four-hour speech that has since been given the title, "History will absolve me".

He presented his vision for a future Cuba, where workers would have a share in business profits and the American-owned sugar plantations would be distributed among the peasants. Castro justified the attacks on the barracks saying that Batista was a tyrant and claimed that he would look back on the judgment as a mistake. The eloquent lawyer escaped the promised ▶



EBERLE PASCH

"We buried him under the mango tree"

In May 1957, Juan joined the rebels. He was married and father of four children, but spent almost all his time on patrol.

The rebels enjoyed strong support from the locals, but occasionally Juan and his companions encountered Batista's soldiers.

"I always looked to see if soldiers lay in wait for us. One day, I suddenly saw a soldier perched in a tree. Before he managed to shoot, I pointed at the tree with my shotgun and shot. Afterwards, we buried him under the mango tree".



MUSEO DE LA REVOLUCIÓN

Castro was behind an attempted coup in 1953. It was unsuccessful, and the rebels were captured.

Rebels crush dictatorship

Batista's coup gave him many opponents. Fidel Castro mobilised a rebel movement and spoke with the Revolution's icon Che Guevara.



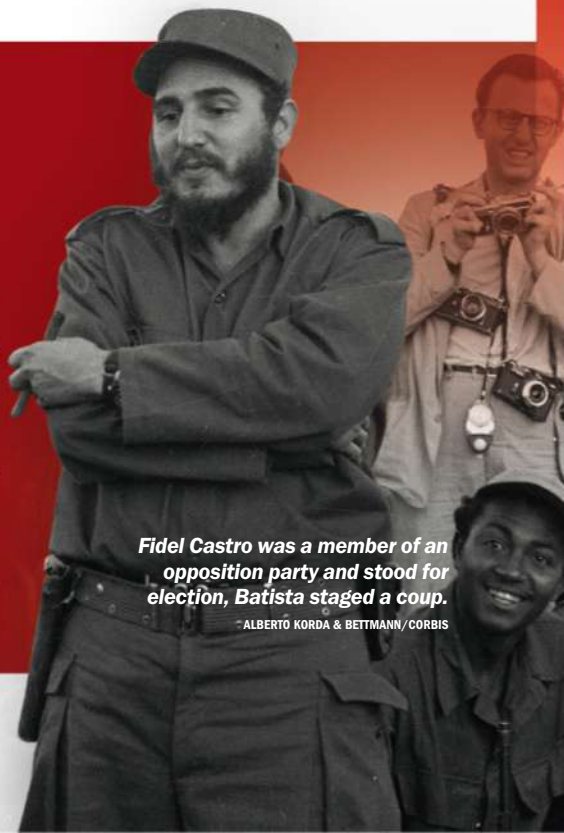
Ernesto "Che" Guevara (1928-1967) travelled around South America in 1951, where the Argentinean saw first-hand how poor people were. He decided that an

armed revolution was the solution and when he met Castro in Mexico in 1955, he found a cause to fight for.

After victory Che stayed in Cuba but travelled to assist revolutionaries in other countries. In 1967, he was executed by the Bolivian army.

Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz (1927-2016) was more interested in sports than books as a child, but was aware of politics, having studied law. In 1947, he joined the Partido Ortodoxo that planned to tackle growing corruption. When the party's founder Eduardo Chibás committed suicide during a radio interview in 1952, Castro became leader and ran in the election, but Batista prevented him from being elected.

Castro was popular among the population, but in 2008 health problems forced him to resign.



Fidel Castro was a member of an opposition party and stood for election, Batista staged a coup.

ALBERTO KORDA & BETTMANN/CORBIS



BETTMANN/CORBIS

Castro wanted to travel to Cuba in a seaplane, but could only afford an old motorboat *Granma*.

death penalty but was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

The penalty would be served in a prison on Isla de Pinos, which is now called Isla de la Juventud. But after being confined for less than two years, he and the other rebels were pardoned. Immediately afterwards Castro travelled to Mexico.

KGB refused to help Castro

The failed attack taught Castro that a revolution needed better preparation and he went back to work immediately.

The rebel leader gathered a group of like-minded people around him and called his army "Movimiento 26 de Julio" – 26th July Movement – after the day the rebels attacked the barracks in Cuba. The group made contact with some veterans who could help with weapons' training and also sought an agent of the Soviet intelligence agency KGB, which they hoped would help to finance weapons and other equipment. The KGB were not interested, so the rebels managed to secure funds from Cuban exiles living in the United States.

Castro realised that an open war against Batista's strong military would be hopeless. The only way he could break the military regime was a guerrilla war. Well-chosen operations would eventually soften the government army and put pressure on the Batista regime. The rebels were sure that they would

soon get great popular support – especially from Cuba's poor population in the eastern part of the country – and Fidel Castro prepared for the journey back to his homeland.

The original idea was to acquire a Catalina seaplane, but it was too expensive, so the rebels went to an arms' dealer to buy the very old motorboat *Granma*. On 26th November, 1956 they sailed toward Cuba.

Only 20 men survive

The rebels' arrival in Cuba was intended to coincide with a general strike, but the voyage takes longer than expected. In order to make the journey, the rebels brought 8,000 litres of extra diesel and as the boat is loaded with tons of weapons, ammunition, provisions, plus the 82 rebels, it also sits deep

in the water. The tiny engine can barely drive *Granma* through the water and the rebels arrive two days later than Castro had hoped.

On land, a further 50 Batista opponents are waiting with jeeps, trucks, fuel, food and crates of weapons for them, but because of the faulty radio, the rebels can't arrange a rendezvous. After the rather chaotic landing, things only get worse for the only 82-strong rebel army.

As expected, local farmers provide the hungry soldiers with provisions and help them find their way. But on 5th December, their luck runs out. The guide who led them through the mountains, talks to the authorities and Batista's soldiers track the rebels down.

Without the heavy weapons that they left on *Granma*, they have a chance to escape the government troops. The rebel soldiers try desperately to get away but are mown down in droves.

Several of those on the run are severely wounded and in the chaos that occurs during the gunfight, the rebels lose each other. It's not until

several days later, that they find the rest of their number and count up losses. Only 20 men survive. Among them, Fidel and Raúl Castro, their close friend Camilo Cienfuegos and Che Guevara, who has a bad leg wound.

The rebels have no food, Batista's soldiers are still tracking them and if found, their last hope for a successful revolution will be over. But Fidel Castro is an irrepressible optimist. "We will win this war! The battle has just begun", the rebel leader said to his companions.

Hidden in the mountains, the exhausted soldiers spend time licking their wounds, but in the following weeks, more of Castro's army is lost.

Soon they are ready to rejoin the fight. The tactic is to attack small military camps in the mountainous region, stealing weapons and eventually fight for control of the area. The first goal is a small military post at La Plata River, where about 15 government soldiers are deployed. The remaining 32 rebels' armament totals 17 rifles, two machine guns, a shotgun, a few

Guerrilla war sends dictator on the run

After a failed coup in 1953 Castro left, returning to Cuba in 1956. In two years, the rebels overturned Batista's regime.

CASTRO MUST FLEE CUBA

- 1 **26th July, 1953** Revolutionary forces attack the Moncada barracks.
- 2 **16th October 1953** Castro is sentenced to 15 years in prison for his involvement in the attack on the Moncada barracks.
- 3 **1953-55** Castro serves his sentence on Isla de la Juventud. After two years, he is pardoned and goes to Mexico.

REBELS FIGHT BACK

- 4 **2nd December, 1956** Castro and 81 rebels sail to Cuba in the boat *Granma* and go ashore at Playa las Coloradas.
- 5 **17th January, 1957** The rebels win their first victory when they attack a small military post at La Plata River.
- 6 **13th March, 1957** University students break into the presidential palace in an attempt to assassinate Batista.
- 7 **28th May, 1957** Rebels kill 14 soldiers.

grenades and some sticks of dynamite, while the 15 government soldiers have American M1 Garand rifles.

On 17th January, 1957 at 14.40, two volleys from Fidel Castro's Thompson sub-machine gun, signal that the attack is underway. As soon as their gun is in their hand, the rebels shoot against the surprised government troops with everything they have.

At the same time, buildings in the camp are bombarded with hand grenades and sticks of dynamite. But nothing happens. The explosives are defective, but the firearms are working fine. Through the gun smoke, after the shooting has died down, the rebels have overcome five soldiers and taken three prisoner, while the other seven have fled. The Revolutionary Army has won its first victory. The spoils are eight M1s, one Thompson machine gun, 1,000 cartridges and some supplies.

Batista is furious that his well-oiled military machine failed to eliminate the primitively equipped rebels in the Sierra Maestra. The president is well aware

that the rebels are dependent on help from the local population, so in revenge he orders that the air force bombs a series of farms in the area. However, it has the opposite effect. Batista's revenge just makes the connection to Castro stronger.

Attempt fails

In the capital, resistance towards Batista spreads and Cubans express their dissatisfaction with him.

On 13th March, 1957, a group of students from the University of Havana storm the presidential palace to assassinate Batista. However the act is badly thought through. Students enter the palace, but they cannot find the president's chambers. Everybody is either captured or shot on the spot.

Meanwhile, the leader of the group, José Antonio Echeverría, forces his way into a radio station, where in anticipation of a successful outcome he announces Batista's death until a technician interrupts the broadcast. As

he leaves the radio station, Echeverría accidentally runs into a patrol car and in the ensuing exchange of fire with the police, is killed. Because of this, state ►

EBBIE RASCH



"Batista's plane bombed our farm"

As daughter of a coffee farmer, Hilda had worked in the field from the age of seven.

"We were poor, and many spoke about moving to Havana, where people were richer. We had no shoes and there were no doctors, so many children died".

While Hilda's husband fought with the revolutionaries, she fended for herself.

"It was not easy being alone with three children. Neighbours helped me, but Batista's soldiers made life miserable. Once, his plane bombed our farm. I hid with the children under the bed".



SIEN CREUTZMANN/GETTY

BETTMANN/CORBIS



ULSTEIN BILD & BETTMANN/CORBIS

The rebels lived very primitively in the mountains of eastern Cuba. They were dependent on local farmers help, and stole their guns – like this Springfield M1 Garand – from Batista's soldiers.

radio inadvertently reports the news of Batista's alleged death.

In the Sierra Maestra, Castro and his comrades have better luck. After the La Plata project, the growing band of rebels, known as "Los Barbudos" – the bearded ones – win more victories, and local farmers make a series of effective sabotage tactics to help the rebels.

They blow up bridges, cut telephone wires and break up railway tracks. The destroyed infrastructure hampers military operations and in May, Castro is ready for his next move: the attack on the base in El Uvero. It's a somewhat riskier action than Castro's former operations, but the guerrilla leader gets 80 heavily armed rebel soldiers on the case. After 20 minutes of gunfire, the

battle is over. Batista's army has killed six rebels, but lost 14 of their own soldiers. The others surrender, and Castro's troops plunder the base for weapons and ammunition.

Rebel soldiers have faith in victory

El Uvero is an important victory for the rebels. The attack takes place in broad daylight, it is a frontal attack and the rebels hijack essential supplies. Fidel Castro's comrades have gradually become tired of living under primitive conditions in the mountains and the lack of basic necessities such as food and tobacco, but the El Uvero attack improves soldiers' morale giving them a belief that it is possible to defeat the government troops. Conversely, with

morale sinking, 30,000 government soldiers become more and more afraid of the growing guerrilla army.

The President dare not suffer any further defeats in the Sierra Maestra, so he pulls the army out of the area. It allows him to allocate more resources to keeping down the popular uprising.

In many cities, demonstrations against Batista's regime become commonplace – most significantly under the leadership of Frank País in Santiago. He is the leader of the 26th July Movement group in the city and does a great job of talking up the Revolution.

País gets local students to organise resistance actions and also recruits people to the rebel army. In July, 1957, he returns to Santiago after a meeting with Fidel Castro at a secret rebel camp in the mountains, but police have ferreted out his hideaway.

Police Chief José Salas Cañizares surrounds País' house. At the last moment, País manages to escape along with Castro sympathiser Raúl Pujol, but as the two men run, a snitch that is also hiding in the house, calls the police. Cañizares' officers arrest País and Pujol when they catch up with them a few streets away. They drag the rebels out of their car, forcing them to their knees and executing both by firing squad.

The double murder leads to more demonstrations in Santiago. The population mobilises a general strike and the military, that has formed the bedrock of Batista's power and supported him through thick and thin, begins to lose faith in its president. On the large naval station in the main port

Cuba's history is marked by conflict

Before Castro took power, Cuba was hardly an independent nation: at first it was a Spanish colony and the US had great influence.

When Columbus arrived in Cuba in 1492, the island was inhabited by Indians, but they were quickly wiped out by the Spaniards' heavy-handed crackdown. As a Spanish colony, Cuba produced a lot of sugar cane and labour was provided by slaves brought in from Africa.

In the 1800s, resistance against Spanish colonialists

become so great that rebellion was brewing, and in 1895, poet José Martí was behind a rebellion, supported by the United States. After three years, Spain withdrew from the country.

The US had economic interests in Cuba and under changing governments kept a firm grip on the country. The US also supported Batista to keep

more leftist leaders from power but when Castro's rebels proved a threat to the Batista regime, the US withdrew support.

The United States refused to recognise Castro's regime but the relationship cooled further when Castro presented his plans for a socialist state. In 1962, the United States prohibited all trade with Cuba.



BETTMANN/CORBIS

José Martí, hero of Cuba's war of independence, died during the struggle.

city of Cienfuegos on Cuba's south coast, a rebellion smoulders; officers are dissatisfied that Batista has been regularly appointing his unqualified personal friends as leaders in the fleet. And on 5th September, 1957, mutiny breaks out.

With the help of the 26th July Movement, the soldiers take over the naval base and city without much effort. The rebels fortify strategically important positions and await Batista's response.

The president sends a large force against the city, but the first attack runs straight into an ambush and is wiped out by the mutineers. However, the rebels struggle to keep Batista's loyal soldiers at arm's length. The air force is deployed and although some pilots throw their bombs in the ocean so they don't kill their countrymen, government soldiers eventually quell the rebellion.

The last rebels entrench themselves in San Lorenzo school. The army puts four tanks in position and bombards the school. Eventually, the rebels surrender. As they leave, they are all shot.

US withdraws its support

Batista may have won this battle, but he's on the way to losing the war. The US government recognised Batista's power immediately after the coup in 1952, and supported him with both military equipment and training. But in 1958, the government in Washington realises they might have backed the wrong horse. They withdraw their support with serious consequences for the dictator.

In a last-ditch attempt to crush the rebel army, Batista sets up a major offensive in the Sierra Maestra. The action is named

Operation Verano and is planned for Summer, 1958.

Castro's army consists of just 2,000-3,000 guerrilla fighters and Batista sends 12,000 soldiers into the mountains to defeat them. That should give the government forces a significant advantage, but many of the soldiers are new recruits and after several years in the area, the rebels know the mountains very well.

After just two skirmishes, the government army has lost 126 men and General Eulogio Cantillo, who is directing Operation Verano, decides to retreat. The government troops' morale is sinking further and it is now clear that Batista cannot hold on to power in the country.

Across the country, government soldiers hold out, but the rebel army has the advantage as it is supported by the vast majority of the population. During November and December, the rebels occupy the largest provincial cities, and on New Year's Eve, 1958, Batista acknowledges his defeat. The defeated leader packs his suitcase with hard currency and leaves the country in the middle of the night.

"Los Barbudos" won. Fidel Castro leaves the first tranche in Santiago and leads a victory parade across the country to Havana. In the capital, he takes over the newly built Hilton hotel and starts

"Batista's henchmen lurked in the bushes"

While revolution raged, Sergio studied at the University of Havana, and when Batista fled, he enlisted as a volunteer teacher in the poor regions.

"There was no school, so we taught in an empty building without a floor. At night, we slept on the ground, and the only thing we ate was yucca. We had guns, so we could defend ourselves, as many of Batista's sympathisers who had fled to the United States sailed back to Cuba at night to wreak havoc. They lay in wait in the bushes and shot at random".

cracking down on potential opposition, executing hundreds of suspected Batista sympathisers. The revolutionaries carry out their promised reforms, but in the 60 years since have proved to be just as resistant to change as Batista. ■

FURTHER READING

● Richard Gott: *Cuba - A New History*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 2004 ● Paul J. Dosal: *Cuba Libre: A Brief History of Cuba*, Harlan Davidson, Wheeling, 2006 ● Clifford Staten: *The History of Cuba*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2003

LESTER COLE/CORBIS



When the rebels wanted to find a headquarters in Havana, they chose the Hilton hotel – to the great amusement of some of the guests.



For the first time after taking power, Fidel Castro ruled the country from a suite on the 23rd floor of the Hilton hotel. The luxury hotel's lobby was filled with heavily armed rebel guards.

LESTER COLE/CORBIS

Latin America's first freedom fighters

O'Higgins improved Chile's economy with reforms in agriculture and education.



BERNARDO O'HIGGINS

BY PELLE STAMPE

In 1800, Spain and Portugal divided Latin America between them. All the wealth was owned by a small colonial elite known as Criollos, although they had no political power. All decisions were taken in the mother countries. But the world was changing. Revolutions in North America and France showed the way and when in 1808 Napoleon conquered Spain and Portugal, the strong and charismatic Criollos were ready for a rebellion.

A free Chile is created

■ In 1810, Chile took advantage of Napoleon's conquest of Spain to declare itself independent. Three years later, Spain was again free, and Spanish troops invaded Chile. The young Chilean land owner Bernardo O'Higgins was given command of a group of volunteers and won several victories. Finally, the Spaniards expelled him

Country: Chile
Lived: 1778-1842

to Argentina, where he raised a new military force. In 1817, he finally defeated a much larger Spanish army in a foolhardy attack to become leader of Chile. O'Higgins made some economic reforms, making the country wealthier. But in 1823, when he tried to reform the church and abolish the nobility's privileges, he was deposed.

SIMÓN BOLÍVAR

Bolívar is a symbol of Latin America's struggle for freedom.

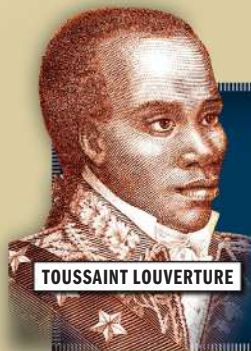
POL/FOTO/CORBIS

He built a new nation

Country: Venezuela
Lived: 1783-1830

■ In 1807, filled with ideas of democracy and freedom, the young Simón Bolívar returned home to Venezuela after travelling in Europe.





From slave to head of state

Country: Haiti
Lived: 1743-1803

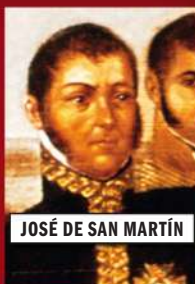
■ Toussaint Louverture was a slave on French Haiti. After the French Revolution in 1789, all slaves were declared free and equal, but two years later slavery was reintroduced. This triggered a black uprising with Louverture as one of the leaders. In 1799, after years

of fighting, he drove out the French governor and declared Haiti an independent republic. Napoleon sent in a superior force and Louverture surrendered with the promise of safe conduct. The French reneged on their word and Louverture died of hunger in prison.

He did not like politics

Country: Argentina/Peru
Lived: 1778-1850

■ In 1812, experienced Argentine officer José de San Martín returned home from the Napoleonic wars to serve his newly independent homeland. For four years, he fought against the Spanish who repeatedly attacked Argentina from Peru. San Martín decided to take the war to the enemy. During a legendary march across the Andes with his army, he caught the Spaniards unaware and defeated them. In 1821, San Martín was appointed Protector of Peru, but did not like politics and resigned the following year.



JOSÉ DE SAN MARTÍN

Victim of his own ambition

Country: Argentina/Uruguay
Lived: 1764-1850

■ In 1810, Argentinean José Artigas played an important role in expelling the Spaniards. He was put in charge of the Argentine province of Uruguay, which he promptly proclaimed an independent state. The



After his defeat, Artigas was forced out of politics.

Portuguese feared that revolt would spread. Therefore, they came in with an army and captured Artigas.

When Spain fell to Napoleon the following year, Bolívar found himself leading a liberation movement, which declared Venezuela independent. Over the next four years, they fought with inexperienced revolutionaries against the Spanish army, but eventually Bolívar was forced to flee the country.

In the newly independent New Granada, Bolívar found new followers, but his second attempt to free Venezuela also failed. Bolívar fled to the independent Haiti, where he raised a new army and returned for a third attempt. This time he was victorious, and in 1819 Bolívar created new Gran Colombia – consisting of Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and Ecuador. Bolívar was given the honorary title “The Great Deliverer” and was appointed President. In 1824, Bolívar incorporated Peru into Gran Colombia. Then he suggested he was appointed Dictator. It was too much for the large landowners who, in 1828, had him overthrown.

MIGUEL HIDALGO

Hidalgo made a vain attempt to free Mexico.

Martyr of Mexico

Country: Mexico
Lived: 1753-1811

■ Mexican Miguel Hidalgo was a socially aware priest who struggled to help the oppressed Indians. In 1810, he marched from Mexico City at the head of 80,000 peasants, but the Spaniards had an army waiting. Hidalgo was captured and executed. His violent death made him a martyr and in 1821, after Mexico's independence, he was given the title “Father of the Nation”.

Mad theologian

Country: Paraguay
Lived: 1766-1840

■ In 1813, philosopher and theologian José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia was appointed as one of the newly independent Paraguay's two consuls. He was inspired by the idea of freedom and equality and immediately began to remove class barriers. His methods were unorthodox: de Francia's specific example was that people of Spanish descent (typically the richest) had to marry Indians or blacks (typically the poorest). When Francia met resistance, he saw no alternative but to appoint himself as Head of State. First he banned the opposition, then he seized the church's possessions. Although he became increasingly unpredictable, the economy flourished.

De Francia was Head of State until his death.



JOSÉ DE FRANCIA

Che

Ernesto Che Guevara was 38 years old when he began his Bolivian adventure, which ended up costing him his life.

POL/FOTO/TOFFOTO

QUICK OVERVIEW

Background: In Bolivia oppressed peasants are starving. Che Guevara, one of the most victorious guerrilla leaders of the revolution in Cuba, thinks he can carry out a successful revolution.

Outcome: Che Guevara arrives in Bolivia with a few Cuban brothers-in-arms and his expectations are put to the test. The Bolivians will not fight. With a small band of men, Che beats the Bolivian army several times yet ends up being caught and shot.

Consequences: after Che Guevara's death Bolivian peasants remain poor, while he becomes an icon to left-wing revolutionaries around the world.

BOLIVIA

● LA PAZ

● LA HIGUERA

Guevara's last mission

In November 1966, El Comandante Che Guevara, one of the Cuban Revolution heroes, arrives in Bolivia's capital La Paz. For several months, he has been training a group of experienced guerrilla fighters – all veterans of the revolution in Cuba. The men adore him and are now ready to lead the revolution in Bolivia.

BY EBBE FISCHER OG BORIS KOLL

“**C**lick”. The slightly burly, balding man has just released his camera and taken a self-portrait using an oblong mirror that hangs over an old wooden door. He is alone in the room, sitting in an armchair on the third floor of the Hotel Copacabana in Bolivia's capital La Paz. Outside the window the vast, snow-covered Andes loom, a majestic backdrop for the man called Adolfo Gonzalez – at least according to his false passport.

The man's real name is Ernesto Guevara, but his friends just call him “Che”. The normally sleek and fair-haired man is completely unrecognisable; his hair is cut short at the sides and the top of his head shaved with a razor. He's wearing a business suit. Cuban intelligence has done its job well.

On this November day in 1966, Che Guevara is a living legend on a secret mission. Eight years before the revolution in Cuba the Argentine-born 38-year-old doctor and guerrilla leader bore weapons with his comrade Fidel Castro. Now he wants to spread Communism throughout Latin America, starting with Bolivia.

But first he needs some sleep. It has been an arduous journey, even though everything has gone well. Earlier that day, he met with Cuban agent Haydée Tamara Bunke – or Tania as she is called. Tania has infiltrated the Bolivian ▶

government and obtained papers supporting his false identity.



Guerrilla base in the jungle

Bolivia's capital La Paz is situated in Bolivia's highlands, El Altiplano, 3,650 metres above sea level in a canyon descending to the jungle. The country is the size of France and Spain combined, with just over five million citizens.

Che Guevara leaves La Paz for the night. He is joined by four experienced Cuban ex-guerrillas and one Bolivian. The small group drives across the Andes, along the small and dangerous roads toward the jungle. Their goal is an isolated farm – the future base for the insurgency. The idea is to recruit local farmers and build a guerrilla force to overthrow the government, just as the guerrillas did in Cuba. The mood in the car is tense and expectant.

Bolivian Eren Loro is the only one of the men who doesn't know that Che Guevara is among them. During a lunch break, El Comandante presents himself. The Bolivian's instant amazement becomes awe, while Che looks at him seriously and warns him to keep the news secret and not let the head of the Bolivian Communist Party leader, Mario Monje,

know anything. He is a man they would like to have onside, but it's too early to involve him.

Che explains the mission to his men:

"I am here to stay. The only way I'm leaving Bolivia is by my death".

The men listen to everything Che says. They are spellbound by his charisma and military abilities, and are ready to follow him to death.

On 7th November the group arrives at the base – a collection of small wooden houses in the jungle near the Ñancahuazú River, south of Santa Cruz. There are not enough weapons or ammunition, and only three Bolivians accept them. Che sits down to talk to the three men. They are all communists, but communism has many forms, and only one of the men pledges his unconditional support. The other two wait for party leader Mario Monje's response to their revolutionary plans.

The guerrillas create lookouts and examine the peasants' movements in the area while they wait for news out of La Paz, from the Cuban agents working to ensure Mario Monje's support. Che Guevara writes in his diary:

"The month has gone well. Half of the men have reached us without a problem. The plan is to wait for the rest of the men, increase the Bolivian numbers to at least 20 – and then commence our operations. We still need a response from Monje".



Communists split

December goes like November. The guerrillas train, explore the jungle, hide stores of food



Fidel Castro

Che Guevara

Fidel Castro and Che Guevara stood shoulder to shoulder during dangerous guerrilla warfare in Cuba.

Che Guevara was a problem in Cuba

A good relationship with the Soviets was more important than rebel Che's risky adventure.

Fidel Castro and Che Guevara met in Mexico in 1955 and it was the beginning of a warm and lifelong friendship. Four years later, they toppled dictator Batista and took power in Cuba. But while Castro proved an astute politician, Che found himself outside the centre of power. He was extreme and uncompromising. If he cared about people, he said it straight to their face. He was, in other words a hopeless politician. Che Guevara fell out with the Soviet leadership, which he accused of undermining socialist ideals, and that put Castro in a spot. He wanted to help his old friend, but poor Cuba desperately needed Soviet economic support, which was more important to them. Che's death in Bolivia solved a diplomatic problem for the Cuban government.

and ammunition and grow their base. As Che Guevara's hair and beard grow, his weight falls off and he resembles himself once again.

All of the Cubans arrive at the base on schedule, but it is extremely slow to recruit Bolivians. Che waits impatiently for Mario Monje, who finally arrives on New Year's Eve. The sight that meets the communist leader, is quite impressive. The guerrillas have worked hard, and the base can now feed and house more than 100 men.

The wooden houses include a room for meetings and training, major food stores and communications' equipment, so the lookouts and the smaller support bases in the vicinity can be contacted. Che Guevara is known as a skilled guerrilla soldier. He does not disappoint.

But Monje is nervous. Che is also known as a very abrupt man. He has fallen out with Moscow, which he publicly criticised for failing socialist ideals. Monje's party needs financial support from Moscow and Monje further fears that a guerrilla adventure led by foreigners could split his party.

The two leaders sit in a quiet spot in the jungle so they can talk privately. Monje sits cross-legged while Che lies on the ground, looking directly at Monje. The atmosphere is tense, and Mario Monje chooses to come straight to the point:

"What do you want here?"

Che explains his plans carefully, and Monje suggests that he will give his support, with certain conditions: Che may not make an alliance with the pro-Chinese communists, which stand in opposition to Monje's pro-Soviet ones. He may well accept Che, but another point creates problems.

"Both the political and military leadership must remain with me as long as the revolution continues in Bolivia", says Monje.

This is a condition that Che Guevara cannot swallow easily, and he says so in quite clear terms. The conversation is over, and the split is final. Monje asks to say a few words to the Bolivians in the camp, to which Che agrees. Monje's message to his members is clear: they may stay in the guerrilla camp, or they can stay with the Bolivian Communist Party!

Monje finishes with a gloomy prediction:

"When people find out that this guerrilla movement is led by a foreigner, they will turn their backs on you and refuse to support you. I am sure that it will fail, because the mission is not led by a Bolivian. You will die as heroes, but do not have a chance of winning".

All of the Bolivian guerrillas choose to remain in the camp, leaving Che both pleased and proud. The break with Monje is bad for the situation, but true to his nature El Comandante is actually relieved: "Monje's attitude can slow

Guerrilla fight at 3,000 metres

When the guerrillas came under pressure at their jungle base outside Arenales, they headed up into even more rugged

highlands. They reached over 3,000 metres. The final battle took place near La Higuera at an altitude of 2,000 metres.



things down. But on the other hand, it will help release me from political constraints", he writes optimistically in his diary.



Fatal workout

The following week the energetic guerrillas train, and on 26th January they receive a positive boost in the form of the Bolivian miner's leader Moisés Guevara, who joins the guerrillas with a small group of followers. Moisés fully accepts his leader's tough demands for obedience and discipline. The good news is quickly replaced by bad as Mario Monje's Communist Party actively opposes the foreign-led guerrilla force.

On 1st February, 1967, Che Guevara orders 14 Bolivians and 15 Cubans on an exercise. The force divides into three groups. The largest of 18 men is led by Che himself, while the other two are under command of experienced Cuban guerrillas Marcos and Joaquín.

The exercise should last three weeks, but the men get lost and the exercise ends up lasting seven tough weeks. The men find themselves trawling through deep valleys, rushing rivers and abandoned villages. They investigate caves and mountain passes up to the Río Grande and the Río Masicuri. They chop their way through thickets and are plagued by insects that burrow under their skin to lay their eggs. They suffer from gnawing hunger: and along the way two recruits drown in a river. The exercise ▶



How guerrillas lived in the Bolivian jungle is described in Che's diary, but there are very few pictures like this.

exposes two ominous things: first, that the local farmers are afraid of the guerrillas and so aren't willing to support them, which is a terrible disappointment for Che Guevara. Secondly, that the Bolivian army is stepping up its patrols in the area.

First victory over Army

At base, Che Guevara becomes aware that government troops have already passed by while they were out on their long training exercise. He immediately organises a hiding place, so everything is clear if government troops approach the camp again. It happens a few days later.

The men may be tired, but they are excellent guerrillas and they are finally allowed to show what they can do. The lookouts spot a group of 80 government soldiers heading straight towards the base. The guerrillas lay waiting in ambush. When the right moment strikes, they open a murderous gunfire. Seven Bolivian soldiers are killed on the spot, 14 throw down their arms and surrender, while the rest flee. The guerrillas have won their first victory without losing a single man.

The victory gives the men a much-needed morale boost, but it will not last long. Che Guevara has withdrawn into himself. He sits for hours on his own while he smokes a pipe, reads, cleans his gun or listens to Radio Havana on his radio. He is very serious and even acknowledges that the mission will be more difficult than expected. But rather than walk around and talk to his men, who bow to his presence, he isolates himself.

There is a tense atmosphere in camp. Quarrels flare up between the Cubans and Bolivians – and there are tough discussions about the long-term strategy. The plague of insects is excruciating, and several of the men get malaria. Some of the Bolivians begin to desert – they simply ask to be allowed to go

home, and go. Che will not force anyone to stay against their will. Soon the entire guerrilla force is down to about 50 people.

On the morning of 10th April, a scout arrives, breathless and elated:

“15 soldiers are on their way along the river!”

Che acts quickly. Again the guerrillas set up an ambush and wait until the enemy is close, before they open an intense gunfire that completely baffles the government soldiers. Later that day the army sends reinforcements, but they are caught off guard. When the battle is over, 10 of the government army's soldiers are dead, while only one of Che's men has fallen.

The guerrillas have taken 30 prisoners. Che's trained doctor gives them the help they need. Then the guerrillas let the prisoners go as there are too many to feed – and Che Guevara will not shoot prisoners of war on principle.

March in the jungle

The guerrilla force has been split in two. Che Guevara heads the larger force of about 30 men, while Joaquín is in charge of the smaller group, which operates independently, further to the north. Over a few months, the guerrillas have a series of sporadic skirmishes with government forces and excel. Every time the army suffers substantial losses, while the guerrillas come through it relatively unscathed. But sometimes a guerrilla soldier falls: so one for one. After June's hardships Che Guevara writes in his diary:

“The worst thing is the lack of contact with Joaquín and the continual loss of men. Every loss is a significant defeat, even if the army does not know it”.

Che Guevara's group has been reduced to 22 men, and Che himself is sick and exhausted. He suffers from severe nocturnal asthma attacks and need medicines that cannot be obtained. El Comandante rides whenever possible rather than walk to spare his body.

On 7th August, it's exactly nine months since the guerrillas landed in the Bolivian jungle. And things don't look good. The men are demoralised: attempts to recruit the oppressed local farmers to fight for a better life have failed. The farmers have fields and livestock to be cared for and children who need to be fed every day. They will not get mixed up in guerrilla adventures with strangers. On the contrary, they actually help the government army by feeding them information about the guerrillas.

And although the guerrillas win all of their battles, the two groups are constantly on the lookout for an opportunity to escape. They are, after all, only a little over 30 men against the

entire Bolivian army. It looks really bad. Che notes in his diary:

"From the original six-man group, two are dead, two missing and one wounded. And then there's me with asthma that I am not able to control".

The men receive Radio Havana and other stations on shortwave, and it is their only link to the outside world. When they set up camp, Che spends his time reading and writing. He continues to give orders, but lacks enthusiasm. The men quarrel and even stoop to something as anti-social as stealing food from each other. Che Guevara would normally clamp down on that, but right now he ignores it. There is so much else to think about. He can feel that the net is tightening around them. The army is using deserters and captured guerrillas and finds the caves where the guerrillas have stored their strategic reserves. In August Che writes in his diary:

"This was without doubt the worst month we have had in the war. The loss of the caves with documents and medicines was a hard blow – especially psychologically. The loss of two men at the end of the month and the subsequent march, on a diet of horsemeat, demoralised the men".

The actual situation is even worse than Che Guevara realises. He has not yet heard the worst: on 31st August, Joaquin's northern group had been completely wiped out. A peasant betrayed them, and the army lured them into an ambush. They are gone forever.

On the evening of 2nd September, while sat listening to Voice of America, Che gets the news. The radio announces that a group of

guerrillas led by a Cuban named Joaquín, have been wiped out in Bolivia. A deeply shaken Che refuses to believe it. He clings to the hope that it is all just propaganda: but it is not.



The end is nigh

Che Guevara's group of 20 guerrillas flee northward. They head up towards the mountains using machetes to cut through the wilderness. For two weeks, the guerrillas head upward. They cross rivers, force through rocks and occasionally run into army patrols, who hound them constantly. But the guerrillas still have no problem beating the enemy.

"The Bolivian soldiers have not learned much", Che notes in his diary.

And yet, the situation is desperate. The men are exhausted, and it's still impossible to recruit local farmers. It feels as though the expedition is losing its primary purpose. Their struggle makes no sense if they do not have support from the local people.

On 21st September, the group are at an altitude of nearly 3,000 metres, chilly wind in their faces and still struggling **forward**. They have never been so high.

One night they go along a **small path in the** moonlight. They are heading **towards the** ▶



After his capture, an exhausted and dirty Che Guevara was led to the village of La Higuera.

CIA helped the Bolivian army

The US government was concerned about Che Guevara's activities in Bolivia and the CIA trained a special unit to catch him.

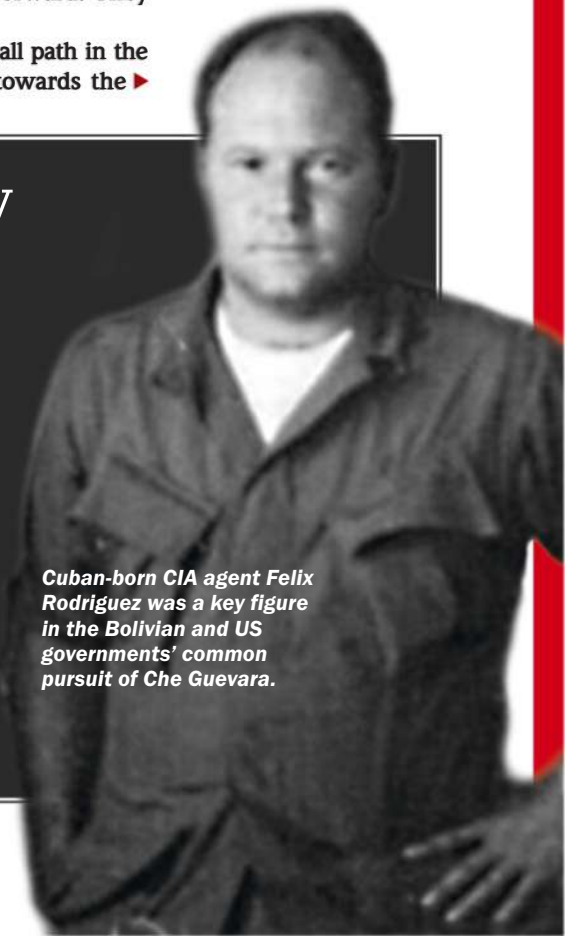
The Bolivian soldiers who hunted Che Guevara and his men were supported by the US Central Intelligence Agency. In the 1960s, the Cold War was being fought on all fronts, and Americans would rather have a right-wing military dictatorship in Latin America than Soviet allies.

CIA support for the Bolivians came in the form of weapons, training and intelligence. In return, the CIA received constantly updated reports. Throughout most of 1967, President Lyndon B Johnson was regularly informed of Che Guevara's movements in Bolivia.

The Americans took the guerrilla leader seriously. They had seen how he and Fidel Castro, who at first had only half a dozen men, had created a strong guerrilla movement and overthrown the Cuban regime. Cuba was transformed from an American satellite state to an enemy state.

However, the CIA knew that the Soviets in Cuba protested against Che's militants' solo actions, which probably reassured Americans and possibly prevented an American military operation playing out in Bolivia.

Cuban-born CIA agent Felix Rodríguez was a key figure in the Bolivian and US governments' common pursuit of Che Guevara.



village of Alto Seco. When they reach the isolated settlement, they are greeted by frightened villagers, trying to get out of the way of the heavily armed, bearded and dirty guerrillas. Che soon finds out that the head of the village has bolted to alert the army. In retaliation he confiscates a large amount of food from the village chief's grocery store.

The guerrillas decide to stay in the village overnight. In the evening they have a meeting with 15 villagers as they try to explain their revolutionary ideas. The only response is from a school teacher who stands up and asks challenging questions.

The following day, the guerrillas leave the village – knowing that the Bolivian army is right behind them, and that it will become difficult to hold out much longer. They move for two days and stop at a small village where they buy a pig from the only farmer who doesn't flee at the sight of them. The men break the guerrilla war's golden rule and move into open countryside in broad daylight. They have become careless.

On 26th September, 1967 when the guerrillas reach the village of La Higuera, Che sends a patrol of five men to investigate the route to the next village, but at the first hill they are pelted with bullets. The army lurks. Three guerrillas are killed on the spot and the last two, who are Bolivians, desert.

Che Guevara and his depleted force of just 15 men exchange shots with the soldiers before they retreat into a valley. The soldiers have great respect for the guerrillas and don't follow them. They find it safer to wait for reinforcement.



Che fights his last battle

The much-reduced guerrilla group head higher into the mountains, finding shelter in a small forest. Here they sit for days, while anxiously

watching for army patrols that pass nearby. With no soldiers in sight, Che Guevara sends a few men to check the lay of the land. They know that they are surrounded, but have not given up looking for a way out.

Late on 30th September, they move out of hiding under cover of darkness. Their thorough training and the last several months' experience benefit them. The guerrillas are able to blend into their surroundings. They move slowly, carefully and completely silently through the terrain – and past the enemy lines.

In the first instance they are safe, but the radio tells them that big army troops are deployed in the precise area they are located. From the news, they can also conclude that the two Bolivians who deserted have talked – and talked a lot. The army know that Che Guevara is sick.

"Thus ended the story of two heroic guerrillas", Che writes sarcastically in his diary.

The next day is quiet. At noon on 7th October, the guerrillas climb down through a ravine and set up camp. Che Guevara makes his last diary entry ever – exactly 11 months after they landed in the jungle. The note is short:

"Height = 2,000 metres".

Early in the morning on 8th October a company of Bolivian soldiers – trained by the CIA – take up position on the edge of the 300-metre-long and 60-metre-wide gorge. They think they are hidden, but they are not. Che Guevara's attentive soldiers have seen both a head and a gun barrel sticking out over the edge of the cliffs. The guerrillas do not know that they are outnumbered by a ratio of eight to one, but they know they are surrounded, and that their only chance is to shoot their way out.

Che Guevara splits his men into three battle groups and orders them into position. At first

Che was shot while he lay bound on the floor. The ropes were removed, the blood washed off and his body put on display.

SCANPIX



they are completely quiet, but ready to fight at any moment. Over next few hours they wait patiently for the government soldiers. The only sounds to be heard are the insects' hum and wind's faint murmur.

At 13.10 they're discovered by the soldiers, who open fire on the guerrillas. The air is filled with a hail of machine-gun bullets and exploding mortar shells. Three guerrillas fall in quick succession, but determinedly the others fight on. Finding shelter where they can, they gradually lose sight of each other.

From a vulnerable position behind a rock, Che Guevara lifts his rifle. Soon after, an enemy bullet hits his weapon damaging the lock so he can no longer shoot. A moment later, a bullet hits him in the calf, while a third whizzes through his beret.

One of Che's men comes to his rescue, and they try to exploit the confusion to escape by crawling along some bushes – out of the gorge. But suddenly they are faced by a government soldier, pointing his weapon at them.

It is over. The two guerrillas raise their hands, and Che identifies them both, while the battle rages on in the gorge.

That evening a filthy and tattered Che Guevara, is bound hand and foot on the dirt floor in a school. He's back in the village of La Higuera. Beside the guerrilla leader are the bodies of two of his comrades.



Government orders Che's murder

Che Guevara is long-haired, heavily bearded, unkempt and ill; caught in an unfamiliar space in the Bolivian jungle. Three Bolivian officers – Prado, Selich and Ayoroa – come into his cell. Selich later recounts the conversation:

"El Comandante, I find you very low", he says to the weakened Che Guevara. The prisoner's hair is wild and his eyes have lost all of their confidence and shine.

"Can you tell me why I get that impression?" Selich continues. Che Guevara looks at him.

"I have failed. It's all over, and so you see me this way", he replies.

"Why did you not fight in Argentina, in your own country?"

"Perhaps it would have been better", admits the prisoner.

"Why have you decided to operate in our country?" insists Selich and Che Guevara answers him thoughtfully:

"Can you not see how the peasants live? They are almost wild; they live in a poverty that depresses my heart. They have only one room to live and sleep in, and they have no clothes to wear. They live like animals".

"It's not the same in Cuba", retorts Selich.

"No, that's not true", protests Che Guevara. "I do not deny that poverty still exists in Cuba,

Che was a legend

The Bolivian government tried to wipe Che out, but instead created an icon.

Che Guevara was an uncompromising and incorruptible idealist. He had a look and a charisma that would make rock stars envious. That, coupled with his ascetic life, gave him a saint-like status among the left, despite his obvious errors of judgement.

Che not only appealed to leftists. Eventually he became a timeless icon in popular culture: a male answer to Marilyn Monroe, one arch-rebel, who has sold millions of T-shirts and is still selling them.

Che Guevara's body was found hidden under an old runway in Bolivia in 1997, which added to the legend. Guevara's remains were flown to Cuba, where a

quarter of a million people passed by his coffin in Revolution Square in Havana to show their last respects.

Che Guevara and his comrades from Bolivia were reburied in a monument near Santa Clara.



but peasants have hope of progress, while in Bolivia they live without hope. Men here die as they were born – without seeing any progress". he adds.

The following morning a helicopter lands in La Higuera with a senior Bolivian officer – Anaya – and the Cuban-born CIA agent Felix Rodríguez. The two men head towards the school, where they try to interrogate Che, but he remains silent. His guards take some pictures of him while awaiting further orders. They come at 12.30 – directly from the government in La Paz:

"Destroy señor Guevara".

At 13.10 a small, chubby sergeant named Mario Terán arrives to kill the world-famous revolutionary. His eyes shine with pride. He is delighted for his place in history and at the same time can avenge three of his men, who were killed during the previous day's fighting in the gorge.

Mario Terán's order is ready:

"Shoot from the neck down".

Terán does it slowly. The first two shots only wound Che Guevara, who clenches his teeth, trying hard not to scream. Two of the following seven shots are deadly, and the hero of Cuba is no more.

Che Guevara is buried near Santa Clara in Cuba, where he won a decisive battle during the Cuban revolution.

ALBERTO KORDA & BORIS KOLL

FURTHER READING

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The fight for freedom leads to bloodshed

Regicide, war, the killing of your own countrymen... People's resistance to authoritarian regimes often leads to bloody chaos. Tens of thousands of Frenchmen followed King Louis XVI and Queen Marie-Antoinette in losing their heads to the grisly guillotine. In Russia, the "Mad Monk" Rasputin gained the ear of the Tsar and his wife, and his insane advice and moral failings helped tip Russia over the edge. Meanwhile British colonists in North America railed against autocratic British rule to the point where they declared independence. Get the full, dramatic story of these and other bloody revolutions.

USA

USA rejects British rule with a declaration

1st CONGRESS July 4, 1776
The Continental Congress declares the United States of America.

LATIN AMERICA

C

Power connections in Cuba

Andrés Bello's dictatorship

The German Kaiser helped
LEVIN
to power

The October Revolution of 1917 was one of Russia's most important historical events and Vladimir Lenin was hailed as a hero who single-handedly saved Russia. But without the German Kaiser's economic support, revolution was never on the cards.

RUSSIA

FRANCE

16 facts about
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

2 Who is the woman in the painting?